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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVII, Issue No. 94

www.saipantribune.com | FRIDAY MAY 12, 2017 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune | 75¢

Ogumoro alleges DPS corruption

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Asks AG to investigate use of over $40K in local funds for 'lover's vacation,' use of inmates to transfer evidence

Breaking his silence, Ambrosio T. Ogumoro has filed an official complaint with Attorney General Edward Manibusan about alleged corruption at the Department of Public Safety.

Ogumoro, a former DPS deputy commissioner, now alleges corruption during the administrations of then-governors Benigno R. Fitial and Eloy S. Inos involving former commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero, current DPS administration director Kaye

See OGUMORO on Page 4

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Holding some documents, former Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro exposes alleged corruption at DPS involving former DPS commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero and others during a press conference held yesterday in his office at the True North Bar in Garapan.

CUC OKs hazard pay for employees

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board approved last Tuesday a proposal to include longevity pay for CUC workers who've been loyal to the corporation, among many other increases.

CUC chief financial officer Antonio Castro had proposed giving longevity pay and hazard pay to select employees and CUC board members unanimously approved the proposal at the special board meeting.

The 5-percent hazard pay would cover 177 CUC employees on Saipan, 24 on Rota, and eight on Tinian, totaling 209 employees in all. That would translate to $45,615

See CUC on Page 4

BEA CABRERA

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, first lady Diann Torres and her two children, Docomo Pacific CEO Jonathan Kriegel, ATISA project manager Liezl Balan and members of the local business community as well as executives of Docomo Pacific hold on to the ATISA cable yesterday on the shores of Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel to signify that the cable has landed on Saipan. ATISA will then continue its journey to Tinian and Rota to ultimately connect the islands.

Saipan gets second marine cable

By BEA CABRERA
REPORTER

After an unexpected glitch in the undersea fiber optic cable in July 2015 that triggered a telecommunications blackout in the CNMI, the Commonwealth finally got its second underwater cable yesterday.

ATISA, the fiber optic network

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Torres shrugs off N. Korean threat

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said the Marianas—the CNMI and Guam—play a critical role in the United States' strategy in the Asia-Pacific region, especially on the issue of national security.

And with the growing tension with North Korea, the Marianas could

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The Trump administration decides to supply Kurdish fighters with weapons.
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Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson may have his sights set on the White House.
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IN SEX ABUSE OF A MINOR CASE

Judge acquits Andres Roberto

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja acquitted yesterday 50-year-old Andres B. Roberto of charges that he sexually assaulted a minor on Saipan.

Naraja found Roberto not guilty of sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. He will issue a written order.

The bench trial began last Aug. 22. The trial was continued several times due to some legal issues, among other reasons. The trial resumed in March 2017.

After hearing the parties' closing arguments two weeks ago, the judge said he would announce his verdict yesterday.

Defense counsel Joaquin Torres later said he is happy with the judge's decision.

"This is not the first, I'm sure there are more stories that are made up for various reasons," he said.

Torres said they are just happy that Naraja believed Roberto's view and his testimony.

Torres said the burden of proof always rests with the government.

He said his client testified that he was not at the scene. "There's no way he was there," the defense lawyer said.

Torres called to the stand four witnesses, including Roberto. Assistant attorney general Jonathan Glass Jr., counsel for the government, called six witnesses.

Police said Roberto allegedly handed $60 for a fundraiser to the 14-year-old girl, then hugged her, kissed her on the mouth, squeezed her breast, and rubbed her butt in the back of a house in the evening of April 19, 2016.

The girl said she pushed Roberto away, threw the money at him, and ran into the house.

Roberto is the brother of former CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife official Raymond B. Roberto, who was acquitted in 2014 by a federal jury of charges that he enticed three minors to engage in prostitution and tampered with a witness while he was in jail. Torres and David Lujan served as counsel for Raymond Roberto in that case.

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Drunk man allegedly beats up tourist

A male tourist was injured when a drunk man allegedly punched him several times in the face and kicked him for no apparent reason in front of the Garapan fire station last Sunday night.

John K. Norita, 22, jobless, was arrested after his brother, who happened to be a firefighter and was inside the fire station, took him down to the ground as he was belligerent and was yelling profanities while being restrained by police officers.

Police said that Norita admitted beating up the victim but he could not remember anything else other than his brother holding him down.

Norita was arrested for assault and battery and disturbing the peace. He was allowed to post a $500 cash bail.

The victim, a male Chinese national, had a half-inch laceration in the nose and right eye, and swelling.

Two police officers who responded to the Garapan fire station on Sunday at 11:53pm saw the victim, whose face was covered with blood. The victim told the officers that a man, later identified as Norita, punched and kicked him.

When an officer went to the back of the fire station, he saw Norita, who appeared to be drunk and uncooperative, being held down by his brother.

Police learned that the victim had just come from Johnny's Bar and Norita, who was also at the bar, followed him and beat him up.

Norita's brother, who was on duty at the fire station at that time, came out and noticed the commotion. He held down Norita to control him. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Torres: Efforts continue to include the US territories in healthcare act

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI and American Samoa officials continue to push for the inclusion of U.S. territories in House Resolution 1628 or the American Healthcare Act that the House of Representatives narrowly passed after a second attempt last week.

The GOP-controlled House passed the AHCA, 217-213, and it now goes to the Senate.

AHCA is a reform bill that would repeal and replace the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare. Repealing and replacing Obamacare has been one of the key legislations promised by President Trump in last year's campaign.

The bill did not make it when the House first voted on it in March. Trump and Republicans succeeded the second time around.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said he welcomed AHCA finally overcoming its first hurdle at the House since it is a priority bill but the issues on healthcare does not end there.

"Now that the American Healthcare Act has been passed by the U.S. House of Representatives, it is important that we support legislation that will provide for better healthcare outcomes for people living in the U.S," Torres said.

He thanked American Samoa Delegate Amata Radewagen, the lone Republican delegate among the four U.S. territories, for her efforts to include territories in the bill.

"I commend Congresswoman Amata Radewagen's efforts to address the key concerns I have raised in regard to amending [Obamacare] to provide for the equitable treatment of the territories with regards to the Medicaid program," said Torres.

"I will continue to support [Radewagen's] efforts to ensure the voices of the territories are heard in Congress with regards to a more accurate [Federal Medical Assistant Percentages] calculation reflective of our socioeconomic conditions."

FMAP are rates that are used to determine and match the funds allocated every year to certain medical and social service programs in the mainland.

ACA and AHCA exclude territories but do not significantly affect the healthcare system in the CNMI.

Torres, in December last year, wrote to Majority Leader Kevin McCarty (R-California 23rd) where he made recommendations on potential reforms of the Medicaid program.

Healthcare for all

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said he and 108 other House members co-sponsored a resolution that presents a real solution on the issue of healthcare. HR 676 would provide Medicare for all.

Sablan said HR 676 includes CNMI residents. "Unlike both Obamacare and the Republican replacement passed on Thursday, HR 676 covers residents of the Mariana Islands in exactly the same way as Americans living anywhere in our country."

"By expanding the existing federal Medicare insurance program, which 2,219 Marianas residents already use, Medicare for all would provide the full range of healthcare to everyone who needs it."

Sablan said the healthcare program would work and be paid the same way as Medicare, "with a progressive excise tax on payroll income and by pooling existing federal expenditures for health care, such as Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program, into a single system."

The program will be a huge help to the Commonwealth. "This would save the Commonwealth millions of dollars in local matching funds now required by Medicaid and ensure that our hospital does not have to absorb the cost of those who cannot pay for care. And anyone who chooses to buy private health insurance would still be free to do so."

Senate PUTC wants to summon CUC board

A meeting by the Senate Public Utilities and Transportation Committee concluded last Tuesday with an agreement to ask the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board certain questions relating to an Office of the Public Auditor's report and the Leidos Engineering LLC report.

PUTC chair Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) said the committee wishes to look further into what exactly transpired and why CUC failed to respond to an OPA request for comment on an audit report.

"I believe that we all should have the opportunity and time to review our oversight meeting and review our draft committee report so that we can put in place something that is coming from all the members," he said.

At the committee meeting, it was questioned why CUC failed to comment on the OPA audit. According to Igisomar, it was reported to him by representatives of CUC that OPA declined a request for extension.

Since it was unclear to the committee what exactly caused CUC to miss the 30-day period given by OPA to respond to the report, the committee decided that the information was necessary to the committee's investigation. The committee would be sending a letter to CUC to ask about this.

A separate letter would also be sent to the corporation regarding its position on the Leidos report, a federally funded review on the current energy system of the CNMI. As of publication, CUC has not clarified its stance on the report.

Leidos Engineering was commissioned to make recommendations on the type of power generation source that would be most viable for the CNMI.

"Leidos placed a lot of guidelines and recommendations—as well as the OPA report, so I hope that we can extract a lot of good information from these two reports," Igisomar told the other committee members. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

Compton sues IT&E for breach of contract

Former IT&E chief executive officer John Compton is suing the company for breach of contract for allegedly reducing his salary, failing to make his guaranteed payment of $100,000, and failing to pay the salary of $250,000.

Compton, through counsel William M. Fitzgerald, asked the Superior Court to hold Micronesian Telecommunications Corp., owner of IT&E, liable for damages. He demanded a jury trial.

Saipan Tribune contacted IT&E yesterday, but the company has yet to comment about the lawsuit as of press time.

According to Fitzgerald in the complaint, IT&E actively recruited the 62-year-old Compton in 2014 because of his vast experience in the communications industry.

Fitzgerald said that sometime prior to March 5, 2014, Jose Ricardo Delgado, a director and primary stockholder of MTC, offered Compton the post of CEO of the company. That day, Compton accepted the offer.

Fitzgerald said that, on Feb. 17 2017, IT&E reduced Compton's salary by 20 percent, retroactive to January 2017.

On April 1, 2017, IT&E again allegedly failed to make the guaranteed payment of $100,000 and failed to pay Compton his $250,000 salary.

IT&E allegedly further breached the contract by failing to provide Compton the bonus plan.

Fitzgerald said IT&E informed Compton in April 2017 that it was considering changing his status to that of a part-time employee. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

ERRATUM

In the story titled "Hyatt golf classic beneficiaries receive $60K" that was published in yesterday's edition, the amount raised exceeded the previous year's by $10,000, not $1,000 as reported. Our apologies for this error.

CUC

From Page 1

for the remainder of fiscal year 2017.

The longevity pay would only cover employees who've been with CUC four years onward. Employees who have been with CUC for four to nine years would be offered a 5-percent raise. An additional 2.5-percent raise would be added every five years thereafter, capping out at 12.50-percent for employees who have served CUC for more than 22 years.

Longevity pay is projected to cost CUC $408,796 in fiscal year 2018 and would affect over 200 CUC employees. That translates to a cost of $110,061 for the rest of fiscal year 2017.

"The discussion about taking care of our employees out in the field and exposed to hazardous environments [has] been going on for months. Our CFO and our budget analyst were able to assess our financial standing to encourage this increase in expenditure. Although it may seem more significant in the next fiscal year, I think I can speak for the board when I say we view it as an investment in our human resources versus an expense," said CUC board member Eric San Nicolas.

"This is a way of giving what has been due our employees for years," he added.

CUC board chair Adelina Roberto pointed out that the rate increase would not affect ratepayers since CUC is capable of financially supporting the additional payments for their employees.

"I would like to emphasize that we are taking action on this without asking for a rate increase from our ratepayers," she said.

"This recognizes [what all the] employees of CUC deserve," said CUC board member Joe Torres.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

CABLE

From Page 1

cable of Docomo Pacific Inc., officially landed on Saipan yesterday. The ceremonial landing of the cable from the sea to connect to land was held on the shores of Aquarius Beach. ATISA will then continue its journey to Tinian and Rota to ultimately connect the islands.

ATISA allows data up to 100 gigabits to travel in three channels that could handle 100 gigabits of data each channel. The results will deliver faster internet connections and 4G and LTE speeds. Once the islands are connected, the commercial launch is in August 2017.

"We started planning this project in August 2015. We met with shareholders and talked about having a serious look in building our own cable. The cost of the old cable was very expensive and when it was cut, it paved the way for us to build our own. We made it better by connecting the islands to the world faster and at a reasonable price," said Jonathan Kriegel, CEO of Docomo Pacific Inc.

ATISA, a Chamorro word that means to accelerate, to increase speed, or a glow of light, is intended to fortify Docomo Pacific's current services. Aside from faster internet and mobile connections, it will bring Tivo, which is Docomo's television entertainment system.

"Tivo has this feature called universal search where you can search YouTube, Netflix, and Hulu. All services are going to improve 10-fold," said Danny Daniels, brand manager of Docomo Pacific Inc.

"The project is on schedule," assured Liezl Balan, ATISA project manager. "The cable is here but there is still a lot to be done. We have a good team both on land and sea, making sure that ATISA is in place and secure. Once we know we have a solid fleet of products and services, we launch in August this year."

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

TORRES

From Page 1

play a vital role in the U.S. government's plans to protect the mainland from threats that would arise in the region.

Torres said this was among the issues that were discussed during the 902 talks and then proposed in the report submitted to then-President Barack Obama. The 902 report is now being reviewed by Congress.

Torres said the U.S. military's presence in Guam and Japan is why he is not concerned about the growing threat of North Korea. He believes U.S. forces in the region are capable of protecting this side of the border.

"We have military forces in Guam and Japan. I know there are also some ships and [aircraft] carriers in the Sea of Japan. That's why anything that is coming here is being taken cared of by our president, even before it comes close to us," said Torres.

North Korea test-fired several ballistic missiles in late April that later failed. It also held its annual military parade displaying new missiles and launchers as a show of strength.

Torres said he is not that all concerned despite all of what's going on in Pyongyang. "We have our military forces and I'm confident in our armed forces, confident in the protection they could give our borders."

The 902 report also outlined the Department of Defense's planned military activities in the CNMI and the U.S. Air Force's divert airfield and exercises on Tinian.

Both sides of the 902 panel—the CNMI side and the federal government side—agreed, and recommended, creating a CNMI-DoD Coordinating Council that could ensure diplomatic, economic, and military components in the Asia-Pacific region.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

OGUMORO

From Page 1

Inos, and others.

Ogumoro turned in his complaint to Manibusan's office on Wednesday afternoon. He also hand-delivered a copy of his complaint to DPS Commissioner Robert Guerrero that same day.

In his complaint, Ogumoro alleged that Deleon Guerrero and Kaye Inos used over $40,000 in CNMI government monies to go off-island for junket conferences and for a "lovers vacation."

Ogumoro also alleged, among other things, that Deleon Guerrero as DPS chief asked for 13 inmates ostensibly to move furniture and office equipment; instead, the inmates were made to move evidence from a DPS container to a DPS office space.

He said some inmates even admitted tampering with the evidence and stealing methamphetamine when the police officers were not supervising them.

Saipan Tribune contacted Kaye Inos for comment, but was told that she has been on leave for the last few days. As of press time, *Saipan Tribune* was still trying to get comments from Deleon Guerrero.

In a news briefing yesterday at his office at the True North Bar in Garapan, Ogumoro said he is exposing corruption at DPS because he cannot stand that Deleon Guerrero, Kaye Inos, and others could manipulate the system and get away with it.

"A lot of these officers are scared to come forward because of their employment and being transferred out," he said. He cited as an example his brother Aniceto, the most senior police officer in the whole CNMI, who was allegedly transferred when he reported the incident to the AG.

Ogumoro said his brother was transferred to the DPS Boating Safety Unit, then to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles as a driving test officer.

"That is very unprofessional," he said.

Ogumoro said that Kaye Inos, as then-Boating Law administrator, misused federal grants for her personal gains during the Fitial-Eloy Inos administrations. He said Kaye Inos was responsible for the federal grant without supervision.

Ogumoro said that when he was acting DPS commissioner, Kaye Inos' crime was documented and the papers were forwarded to then-AG Edward Buckingham, with the plan for Ogumoro to deliver the original documents to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and for the initiation of her arrest.

Ogumoro said that Buckingham took the documents to meet with Fitial, who later called him (Ogumoro) to explain that he will handle it.

He said Fitial "sweet-talked" him to just "let it be" because they will handle the matter.

Ogumoro said that Fitial never did and the investigation against Kaye Inos never happened.

"That's why I'm coming forward because it's continuing to happen," he said, citing an internet issue at DPS.

Ogumoro said that Kaye Inos has been out of DPS for three years now but Deleon Guerrero and police officer James Rabauliman continue to provide her free internet, courtesy of DPS.

"She's at home somewhere and charging to the DPS. That is one that I cannot stand, theft of service," he said.

Ogumoro said this started at the time of his hiring and firing at DPS.

He said three Fitial-Inos supporters can attest that Inos became enraged when he learned of the accusations against his daughter. He claimed that this led to Inos pounding the table and defending his daughter.

Ogumoro said that Eloy Inos stated that, "if anyone is going to kill his daughter then he shall be the one to kill her."

Ogumoro said it was his intention to forward the complaint to the FBI to effect the arrest of Kaye Inos.

When Inos became governor, that's when the vendetta of Kaye Inos and Deleon Guerrero against Ogumoro started, he said.

He also alleged that Deleon Guerrero and Kaye Inos used to go off-island for vacations using CNMI government monies, under the pretext of attending conferences.

"We are talking about more than $40,000…and both will go off-island for a lovers vacation," he said.

Ogumoro said the government did not benefit from those trips and those were not in the best interest of the CNMI.

He said Revenue and Taxation has all the documents as proof.

On the issue of using inmates, Ogumoro said Sgt. Joaquin Camacho told the inmates to stop moving the evidence when two AG investigators were getting out of their vehicle in close proximity of the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division parking lot in Susupe.

Ogumoro said Camacho then told the inmates to proceed after the two AG investigators went into their office next door.

He said an inmate described the evidence they moved being firearms, knives, marijuana, and "ice."

At a later date, Ogumoro said, AG investigator Vince Babauta initiated an investigation on the missing evidence and inmates getting caught bringing it into the Department of Corrections.

Ogumoro said Babauta should have paid more attention than "looking the other way."

Ogumoro disclosed that fake evidence was submitted to the Superior Court back in October 2013 under Deleon Guerrero's leadership at DPS and was never looked into or investigated.

"Which makes me wonder if the $45,000 cash that was seized from a Japanese yakuza back in the 1990s is still there at DPS," he said.

Last May 2, Ogumoro was found guilty of two corruption charges and acquitted of four other charges.

The jury found him guilty of theft by deception but not guilty of theft by unlawful taking.

Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo, who decided on the misdemeanor charges, found Ogumoro guilty of one count of misconduct in public office, not guilty of two counts of removal of government property, and not guilty of one count of misconduct in public office.

Sentencing will be on Sept. 12, 2017.

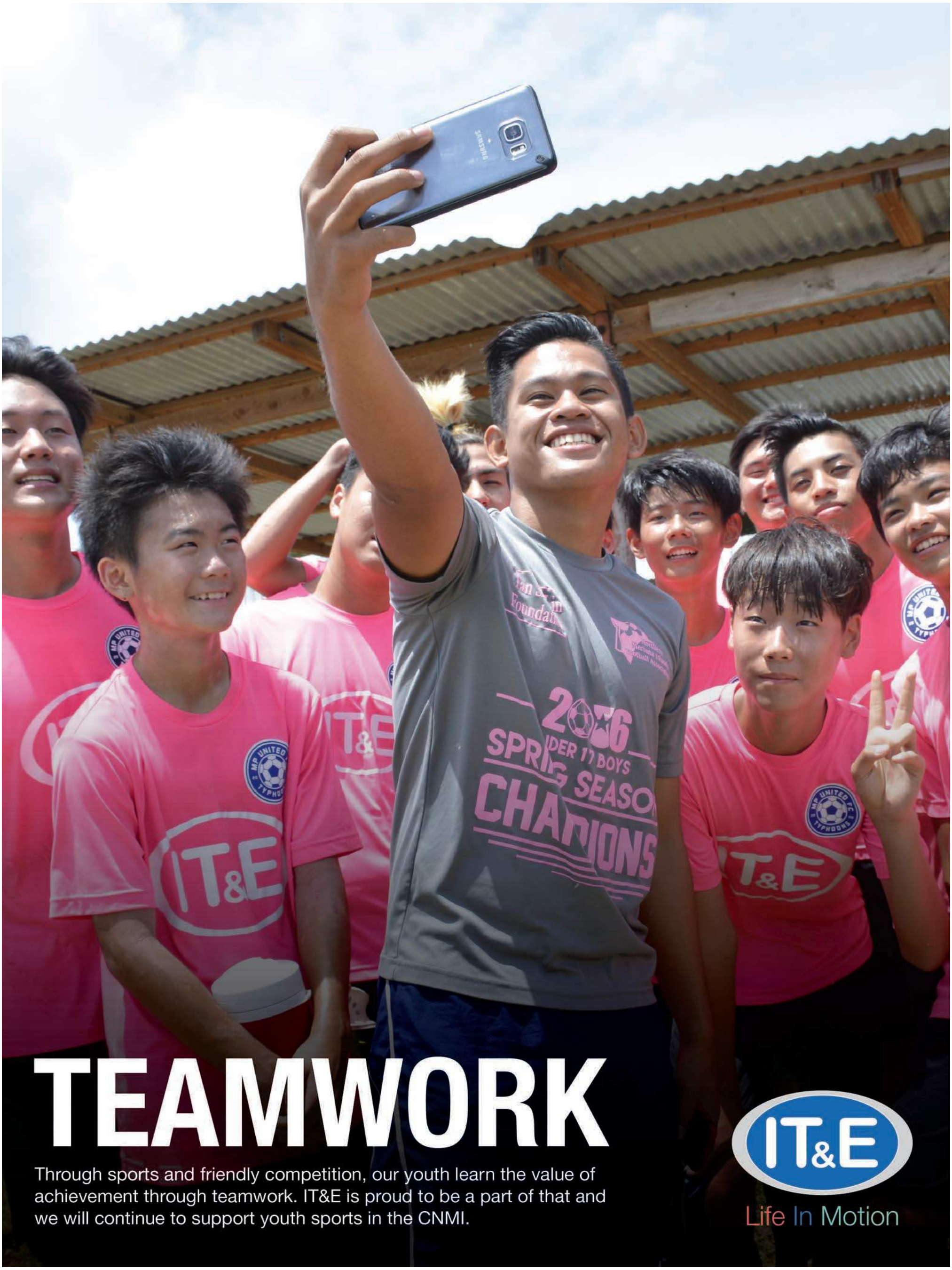
After that trial, Ogumoro refused to comment.

In January 2016, a Superior Court jury rendered a unanimous verdict finding Ogumoro guilty of conspiracy to commit theft of services, and theft of services for shielding then-AG Buckingham from being served with penal summons in August 2012.

Wiseman also found Ogumoro guilty of five counts of misconduct in public office, one count of obstructing justice: Interference with a law enforcement officer or witness, and one count of criminal coercion.

After that trial, Ogumoro also refused to comment.

On March 30, 2016, Wiseman slapped Ogumoro with a one-year prison sentence. The defendant started serving the prison term on April 13, 2016.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'Workforce also an issue elsewhere'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Labor and other workforce related issues are also hindering the economic progress of other island nations in the Micronesian region, according to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. He said workforce was one of the issues that they discussed at the Micronesian Islands Forum.

Guam hosted the 22nd edition of the forum at the Hyatt Regency Guam. It brought together the leaders of island nations and territories in the region—the CNMI, Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap states), Guam, the Marshall Islands, and Palau.

The two-day forum used to be called the Micronesian Executive Summit

Torres said he had an interesting discussion with other leaders in the region of the issues that affect their respective jurisdictions. Aside from labor issues, alcohol and substance abuse was also discussed.

"We came in and worked together in addressing our issues and other challenges in the Micronesian region. An interesting part is they also have issues on workforce like us," said Torres.

The CNMI is expected to face a shortage of workers once the hotels being developed and constructed begin their respective operations. Alter City Group would build a casino on Tinian, while Bridge Investment Group also has several projects lined up.

Imperial Pacific Resort, which is currently embroiled in a controversy after several of its contractors were found bringing in tourists for work, and another hotel project, Hong Kong-based Honest Profit International Ltd., are being built on Saipan.

The CNMI-only transitional worker program is set to end in 2019. Businesses will need to move their foreign laborers to a work visa under United States immigration laws.

Torres said other island nations also want to lower their unemployment rate. "Which, I think, is a great thing for us. I plan to go down to other Micronesian islands and do a job career program, where we're going to go there and talk to potential employees."

Presidents Tommy Remengesau Jr. (Palau), Peter Christian (FSM), and Hilda Heine (Marshall Islands), and governors Eddie Calvo (Guam), Johnson Elimo (Chuuk), Lyndon Jackson (Kosrae), Marcelo K. Peterson (Pohnpei), and Tony Ganngiyan (Yap) were the other leaders of the region that attended the forum.

Calvo, being the host of the annual meeting, is the chairman, while Torres would assume the position when the summit is held in the CNMI next year.

IT&E installs free public WiFi on Rota

Providing opportunities for public access to internet services, IT&E recently relocated public WiFi at the former Rota Melchor Mendiola Park to the Rota Roundhouse early this month.

According to Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig, accessible internet had been requested by many of the youth to be relocated to a more communal area.

Aubry Hocog, special assistant for Programs and Grants, expressed the need for youth enrichment and internet access, which is one of many reasons for the public access point relocation.

IT&E general manager Rose Soledad noted that the free public WiFi will soon be upgraded among other upcoming advances within the current network.

"For several years, the community has been able to stay connected with other islands and the world, and we are happy to provide an access point free of charge to Rota residents at the roundhouse. We are working steadfastly to improve the speeds of the entire CNMI and hope to see the services grow for the residents of Rota for after-school activities and summer leisure," she said. ***(PR)***

COMMITMENT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, IT&E general manager Rose Soledad, right, and IT&E customer service manager Janice Marie A. Tenorio, left, are all smiles following a meeting yesterday on the progress and updates of the telecommunication giant's commitment to continually provide for the telecommunication needs of the CNMI.

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- Get at least 7 to 8 hours sleep
- Reach and maintain a healthy weight
- Get help to quit or don't start smoking
- Limit alcohol use to one drink or less
- Not use illegal drugs or misuse prescription drugs
- Wear a helmet when riding a bike and wear protective gear for sports
- Wear a seatbelt in cars and not text and drive
- Take 400 to 800 mcg of folic acid

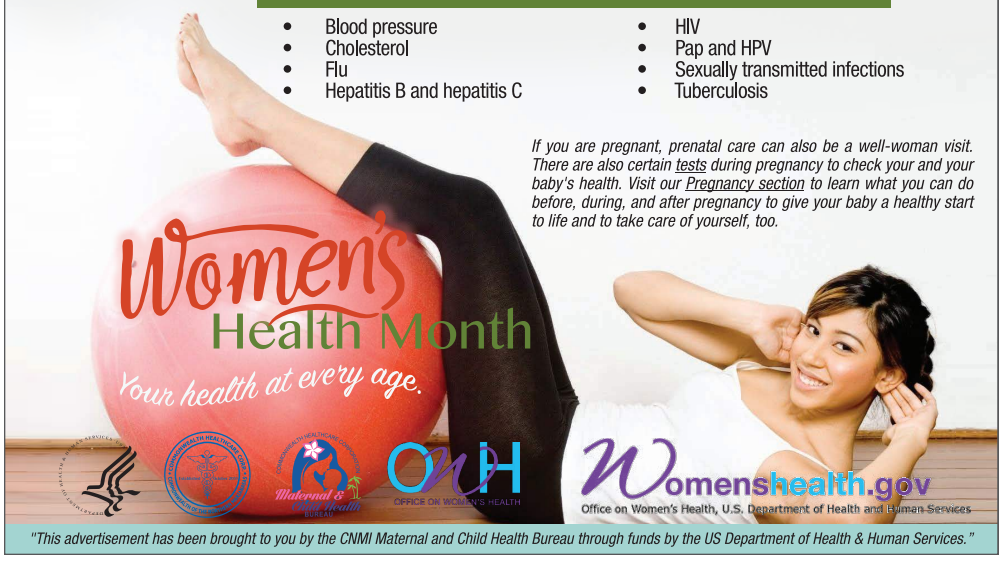
TALK TO MY DOCTOR AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR ABOUT:

- Whether I plan to have children in the next year or the right birth control for me
- My weight, diet, and physical activity level
- My tobacco and alcohol use
- Any violence in my life
- Depression and any other mental health concerns
- My family health history, especially of cancer

ASK IF I NEED THESE TESTS OR VACCINES THIS YEAR:

- Blood pressure
- Cholesterol
- Flu
- Hepatitis B and hepatitis C
- HIV
- Pap and HPV
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Tuberculosis

If you are pregnant, prenatal care can also be a well-woman visit. There are also certain tests during pregnancy to check your and your baby's health. Visit our Pregnancy section to learn what you can do before, during, and after pregnancy to give your baby a healthy start to life and to take care of yourself, too.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Office on Women's Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

"This advertisement has been brought to you by the CNMI Maternal and Child Health Bureau through funds by the US Department of Health & Human Services."

Public invited to 36th NMC Charter Day today

Northern Marianas College employees and students are inviting the community to what promises to be one of the liveliest events of the year, Charter Day.

The Charter Day celebration, meant to commemorate the institution's founding 36 years ago, will be held today, Friday, May 12, from 4pm to 10pm at the NMC south field next to the NMC Gymnasium.

"The campus community is looking forward to welcoming everyone to NMC for Charter Day," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

The Charter Day celebration will feature the top scoring contestants of the Proa Factor talent competition as well as a performance by L.J. Naputi, who swept all the awards at the recent Flame Tree Festival Chamolinian Music Contest. The entertainment lineup will also include Parker Yobei, Roman Jr. Tudela; Big J; Simiyan Marianas; Rhythm & Harmony; Carolinian Maas Dance Group; Palauan Community; 29:11 Dance Group; Nikki Ayuyu; Felix Rabauliman; Three Shores; and many more.

Charter Day festivities will also feature a number of food vendors and other organizations who are showcasing their programs and services.

Additionally, the college will also be holding an investiture ceremony for the newly elected officers of the Associated Students of NMC, the student government body.

This year, the NMC Cooperative Research, Education, and Extension Service will also be hosting demonstrations and giving away seedlings, plants, and other items. ***(NMC)***

The NMC Charter Day celebration today, May 12, will feature performances by Parker Yobei, Big J, Roman Tudela, and many other performers. It will also showcase the PROA Factor talent competition.
NMC

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$5K offered as prize for HANMI golf tourney

Saipan Computer Services and Ideal Signs have joined the list of growing sponsors of the 16th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament, offering $5,000 for a lucky hole-in-one winner on June 24, 2017.

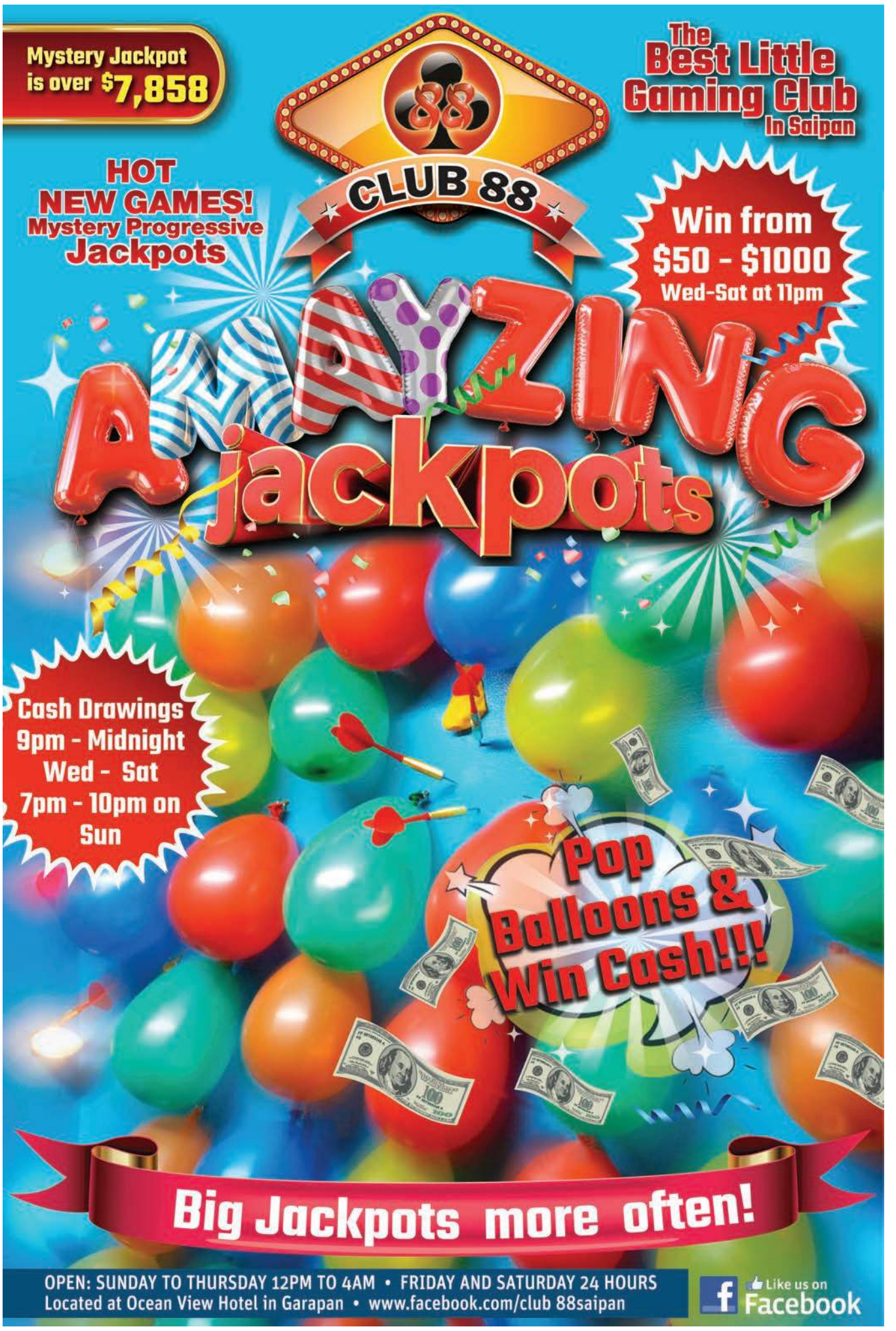
The tournament is slated for Laolao Bay Golf & Resort west course and is open to the first 144 paid registrants. Cash, cars, hotel night stays, and other prizes await the winners.

"The HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament never fails to disappoint with our exciting prizes, and we thank Saipan Computer Services for making a very attractive hole-in-one prize available for our players," said Tournament Committee chair Takahiro Omori. "We're very grateful to our all our sponsors—returning and new—who make the tournament a success."

Computer Services director Jose Tiu, Business Development director Jerry Tiu, managing director Kazuko Kawabe, and TEAM Saipan Computer Services and Ideal Signs present a $5,000 hole-in-one check to HANMI Golf Tournament committee member Das Krishnan. The tournament will be held at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort west course on June 24, 2017.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Registration forms are now available at: Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Coral Ocean Golf Resort, and Mariana Country Club. Early bird tournament fee is $120 for payments received by 5pm, June 16. The fee includes green fee and the awards banquet. The fee increases to $140 after the early bird deadline. For an additional $30, players may also compete for optional play prizes, including accurate drive circle, nearest of the pin, and accurate driveline. The tournament will start at 7am.

For more information, contact Omori at omori@marianaresort.com or 322-0770. ***(PR)***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Looking for a great Mother's Day event?

The Marianas High School glee club, Rhythm 'N Harmony, will present a Mother's Day program, R 'N H Glee in Concert, at 7pm on Sunday, May 14, at Charley's of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan. Tickets cost $10. There will be a special discount for ticket holders in The Magellan, which opens at 6pm.

This is MHS Glee Club's second fundraising concert to raise additional support for the group's trip to the international thespian festival in Nebraska this June.

For inquiries, please call/email Harold Easton at 285-1657 or harold.easton@cnmipss.org. ***(PR)***

7, including 2 from Saipan, get Ifit scholarships

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam announced yesterday the seven winners of the 2017 Bank of Guam Ifit Scholarship, which consists of a $2,000 grant and a paid summer internship.

The seven include two from Saipan: Arron Cushing of Mt. Carmel School, who will go on to Gonzaga University; and Nathaniel Snodgrass, also of Mt. Carmel School, who plans to go on to the Northern Marianas College.

The other Bank of Guam Ifit scholars are Julianne C. Ballon of Okkodo High School (Guam), Byung Woon Ko, Xavier High School (Chuuk), Bo Yung "Allen" Kong of Harvest Christian Academy (Guam), Natasha Loochaz of the Yap Catholic High School (Yap), and Francis Yarofalyango of Yap Catholic High School (Yap). ***(PR)***

CONGRATULATIONS!

Chalan Kanoa resident wins $10K

Proving that more prizes can still be won in its scratch lottery, Northern Marianas Sports Association awarded $10,000 to a Chalan Kanoa resident, less than a month after handing over the same amount to its first jackpot winner.

The second lucky winner was Qiong Xiao Lao, who was bored last week as business was slow in the store she manages so she decided purchase NMSA's scratchy lottery cards to get herself busy.

"I've done it before, but won only $5. Then last Sunday, I did it again, trying different cards—more than 10 before I hit the jackpot," said Lao, who earned the NMSA-tax paid $10K from the Pay Day card.

"Of course, at first I could not believe that I won. I thought my eyes were fooling me so I called by husband and told him to see the numbers. When he confirmed I won, I jumped for joy and hugged him," the mother of four added.

She received the prize money in cash from NMSA Lottery manager Anicia Lisua last Monday—just one day after Lao hit the jackpot. The Chalan Kanoa resident also won $1,000 for the store (Lao Store) her sister owns.

"She will be very happy and my mother and other siblings, too because we will celebrate and I will share some of my prize to them," said Lao, who thanked NMASA for giving her an advanced Mother's Day gift.

"We will celebrate Mother's Day this weekend and I will treat my mom because she's been taking care of my kids when I am away and working. She has done a lot for our family and she deserves a good treat. For my kids, I will also buy them gifts," Lao said.

The 45-year-old mother won the jackpot just nearly three weeks after Susupe resident Luneta Gaso got the same prize and only a few days after NMSA also handed out its second $5,000 prize to Joaquin Adriano and $1,000 to a Tinian resident.

"If someone wins the 10K it does not mean there won't be any jackpot that can be won. The game does not stop there, more prizes are out there so keep buying lottery cards and supporting a good cause," Lisua said.

Sales from the lottery go to NMSA and its programs and projects for athletes and members of the sports community.

SALE
NMC Charter Day
May 12, 2017 | 4PM - 10PM
BLU Advance 4.0L2
$49
BLU Studio G HD LTE
$99
TOBACCO FREE CAMPUS
Visit the IT&E booth at the NMC Charter Day today and purchase a new prepaid phone. All proceeds from phone sales at this event will be donated to the NMC Foundation. Free Ring stent with purchase.
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Governor to decide soon on personnel replacements

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Several major personnel decisions await Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, not least of which is the administration's choice on who would replace the seat vacated by Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman.

The administration has yet to release its final performance evaluation of the Cabinet, almost three months after Torres asked for all members to submit their courtesy resignations.

Torres said they are expected to end the review process and come up with a decision soon. "The [performance] review on Cabinet secretaries is still ongoing."

When asked whether everyone is in an acting capacity, Torres said: "No, they are all Cabinet members and all are secretaries. The only acting now is [Department of Corrections Commissioner] Georgia [Cabrera]."

"You are a secretary even though you were asked for a courtesy resignation. You turned it in and you are still secretary, unless you are notified otherwise," added Torres, who is also meeting with Washington, D.C. officials on labor and immigration issues.

Cabrera resigned and was immediately replaced by Lino Tenorio in an acting capacity. Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, as acting governor, fired Tenorio.

"With respect to Lt. Gov. [Hocog], he was acting governor and I respect the decision he made. [Cabrera] is acting and all other information will be forthcoming," said Torres.

Torres asked for the courtesy resignations of all Cabinet members, who are appointees of the late governor Eloy S. Inos, in February 2017.

Inos died more than a year after being elected to the highest post in the CNMI. He died in Washington state while recovering from open-heart surgery in a Seattle hospital.

Torres assumed the governorship following Inos' death, with then Senate president Victor B. Hocog being elevated as the CNMI's llieutenant governor.

Torres has also yet to name the replacement of Commonwealth Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman, who retired in May last year after 15 years of being on the bench.

GCA to offer ESL program

Grace Christian Academy is excited to announce a new ESL (English as a second language) program to be headed by Sandy Howard.

Howard is a certified ESL instructor with specializations in Teaching English to Young Learners and Teaching Business English.

Howard was a teacher at Grace Christian Academy on Tinian for five years, while her husband, Jim Howard, was the administrator. They are excited to now be returning to the islands, along with their daughter, Alayna, and becoming a part of the community here on Saipan. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sandy Howard, her husband Jim Howard, and their daughter, Alayna.

SPREP to hold workshop at PIEC

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program will host a session at the 29th Pacific Islands Environmental Conference on Day 1 and offer a full-day workshop on June 16. The conference is open for registration at www.deq.gov.mp.

The SPREP is an intergovernmental organization based in Apia, Samoa. The organization is held accountable by the governments and administrations of the Pacific region to ensure the protection sustainable development of the region's natural resources.

SPREP will host a session that highlights the environmental impact assessment process.

SPREP representatives will be featured in a breakout session during the conference and again during a post-conference workshop. With the increase in the amount of permit applications submitted to BECQ, it would be diligent to inform contractors, environmental consultants, and members of the public of the stringent requirements of the permitting process.

The theme of this year's conference is "A Sustainable Pacific: Preparing for Change, Voyaging with Knowledge" The conference agenda will focus on climate change and island resilience, approaches to sustainable development, and the connections between public health and the environment.

During the 29th PIEC, more than 300 delegates from the environmental protection professions including managers, field representatives, government officials, private companies and non-profit groups are expected to be in attendance. Attendees will come from across the Pacific, American Samoa, Guam, the Republic of Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. There will also be representatives from the U.S. mainland and international locations.

Interested persons can register at deq.gov.mp. The registration fee is $50 for the three days, or $20 for per day. ***(PR)***

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Women's Health Month 2017
Your health at every age.
Brought to you by:
Date: May 27, 2017
Location: Filcom Pavillion at Civic Center
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• Batting Demonstration Station
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• Baseball Demonstration Station
Raffle Drawings and prizes:
• The 1st 100 participants gets a tshirt.
• The "Most Shared" Facebook posts of the event.
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Blood Pressure & Blood Sugar Screenings will be available.
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ACSI
GCA is also a part of the U.S. Student & Visitor Exchange Program and accept foreign students.
Grace Christian Academy
is located on Upper Navy Hill. For more information, contact the school at 322-3320/3850 or set up an appointment to visit the school

It is now easier to share *Saipan Tribune* stories.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Share *Saipan Tribune* news in three steps

It is now easier to share *Saipan Tribune* stories.

A new feature of the *Saipan Tribune* website, www.saipantribune.com, now allows readers to share the latest news about the CNMI in three steps.

First, highlight part of the article that you want to share. This can be the headline or any content in the news.

Second, choose the social medial channel. Highlighting a portion of the article opens a new window that offers readers a choice of how to share the news: via Tweeter, Facebook, or Linkedin.

Third, click on which of the three options you want and share away! It is that simple. Share the information, start a conversation and create a forum. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

Chamber hosts learn how to manage tasks & time event

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce presents "Task & Time Management," the second in its "customer service excellence" series of workshops for 2017 in partnership with Jim Arenovski of Island Training Solutions. This seminar will take place at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce conference room (Marianas Business Plaza, third floor, Suite 315) on June 15, 2017, from 9am to 12pm.

This seminar is for all levels of employment from frontline staff to supervisors, managers, and owners. With the increase of business development on our island, we are experiencing competition in finding sufficient workers for our businesses. Effective time management is the key to getting the most out of each day and to surviving the increased business pressure brought about by our island's economic changes and growth. From managing emails to juggling time spent on multiple projects, this training seminar will help attendees attain skills to balance home and work and to help rethink and reprioritize on a moment's notice.

During this training seminar, participants will learn to establish goals and communicate effectively to meet deadlines, to learn effective techniques to increase productivity, and to design a personal time management system that works best for themselves and their team. It pays to invest in yourself by attending training to enhance your skills and efficiency!

Registration fee is $50 per person for Chamber members and $55 per person for non-members. Light refreshments are included. Reservations and advance payment are required, as seating is limited. To register, call 234-7150 or email us at coordinator@saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

TASTE OF THE MARIANAS
MAY 13, 2017
INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL AND BEER GARDEN
GARAPAN FISHING BASE
MAY 13, & 20, 2017 (Saturdays) 6:00pm-10:00pm
MAY 27, 2017 (Last Saturday) 6:00pm-11:00pm
Saturday, May 13, 2017
6:00 p.m. Aging Center
6:30 p.m. Hopwood Music & Dance Production
7:00 p.m. Poksai Guma Chamorro
7:30 p.m. Pacific Flowers
8:00 p.m. Blue Dragon
8:30 p.m. Re-up
9:00 p.m. Northern Star Band
10:00 p.m. Closed
Food Concessionaires
D'Elegance
Fiesta Resort & Spa
Furusato Restaurant
Herman's Modern Bakery
Hyatt Regency Saipan
Kanoa Resort
Mariana Resort & Spa
Matty's BBQ
Sierra's Pearl Shakes
Sweet Escape
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2017 CNMI TOURISM MONTH
"Tourism is Everybody's Business"
"Hafa Adai Tirow" Spirit Island Wear Fridays
Every Friday in May is Hafa Adai Tirow Spirit Island Wear day! Show your island pride and culture by wearing island attire or local traditional wear. Post your photos on Facebook at "My Marianas (Marianas Visitors Authority)."
Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden
This highly anticipated weekly celebration will be held every Saturday in May at Garapan Fishing Base from 6-10 p.m. The event will feature delicious local and international cuisine sold by 13 vendors. Enjoy the talent of local and international performers with live entertainment all evening. The event will feature nightly competitions, as well as trivia questions aimed at promoting tourism awareness.
"My Marianas" Community Outreach Presentation
Get up-to-date on the latest industry trends and upcoming tourism events during this picturesque slideshow on Saturday evenings at the Taste of the Marianas.
On-the-Street Interviews
MVA turns the spotlight on you as random community members are given an opportunity to share their views in local newspapers.
Radio Tourism Trivia
Call in with the correct answer for your chance to win tokens for the Taste of the Marianas and Tourism Month T-shirts. Tourism Trivia will air regularly throughout the month on Power 99 (97.5 FM), KZMI (103.9 FM) and KKMP (1440 AM and 92.1 FM), KWAW (100.3 FM).
Tourism Month Graphic Arts Contest
Open to CNMI students in grades 6-12. Cash and Taste token prizes beginning at $300 for top five winners. May 12th deadline of submission. Visit www.mymarianas.com for contest details.
'Kadun Pika' Cook Off
Registration deadline 5p.m., May 12
Registration form and rules at www.mymarianas.com
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This is a Foreclosure Auction as authorized under Order of the Superior Court in Civil Action No. 15-0199

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVII, Issue No. 94

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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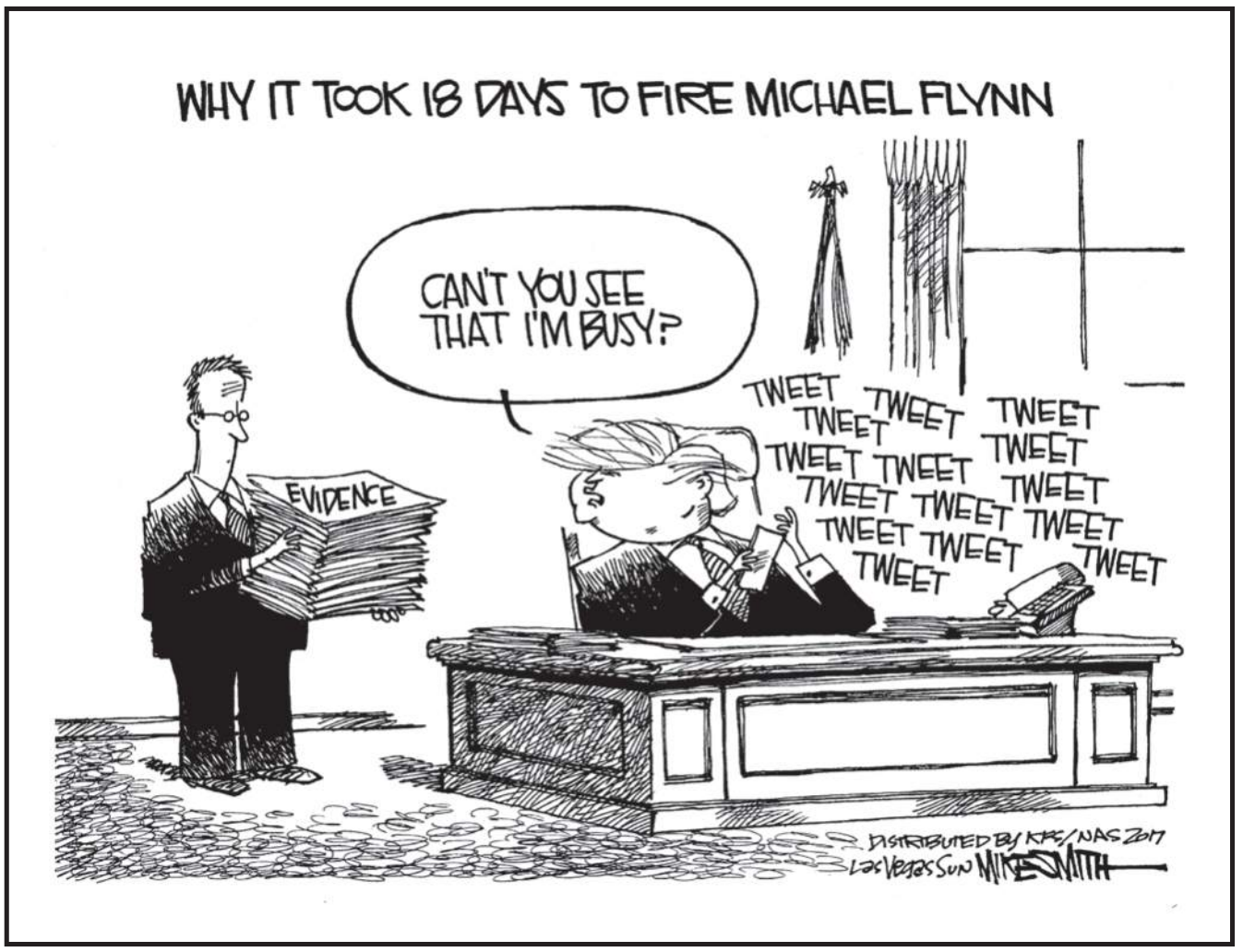


EDITORIAL

Trump firing Comey reinforces need for special prosecutor to investigate Russian ties

Seemingly taking a page from President Richard Nixon, President Donald Trump Tuesday fired FBI Director James Comey, who had been overseeing the investigation of ties between Russia and people close to Trump.

Two points: First, this is not normal. And second, there can be no question now about the need for a special prosecutor to look into Russian ties to the Trump campaign.

Trump released a package of memos indicating that he dumped Comey over his handling of the investigation into Hillary Clinton's emails, a claim that that strains reason. In the past, the president had praised Comey, saying "it took a lot of guts" for him to raise new questions about Clinton in the campaign's October home stretch. Clinton has blamed Comey for her loss.

Adding to the confusion, Attorney General Jeff Sessions recommended Comey's firing, even though Sessions recused himself from matters related to the FBI investigation into the Trump campaign's ties to Russia.

Sessions based his recommendation on a memo from Deputy Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein, who has spent his career in the U.S. Justice Department and said Comey had lost the trust of the agency.

"Almost everyone agrees," Rosenstein wrote, "that the director made serious mistakes."

A president can fire an FBI director. It has happened before. But FBI directors are appointed for 10-year terms to insulate them from politics. They should not be fired for anything less than gross incompetence or malfeasance. And they certainly should not be dumped by a president whose aides are the focus of an investigation that cuts to the core of our democracy.

Comey's firing, which he learned about from TV news reports while delivering a speech to Los Angeles employees, was unceremonious, and carried a whiff of authoritarianism. And it harkens to the dark Nixon administration days when the president fired special prosecutor Archibald Cox looking into the Watergate break-in and cover-up in what came to be known as the Saturday Night Massacre.

We've criticized Comey's handling of the Clinton's email investigation. But the timing of Trump's action raises deeply troubling questions.

Why fire Comey now? Why was Sessions involved? What will come of the Russian investigation?

Is Trump trying to protect himself and his friends and cronies from criminal charges? Acting Attorney General Sally Yates, in devastating testimony this week, said that she warned high-ranking Trump officials about former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn's connections to Russians. Was this a ruse to deflect from that?

See TRUMPH on Next Page

This year in SOHO

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

For 2017 my spring-cleaning routine inspires dreams of chucking my entire workspace and starting over from scratch. Cleaning? I prefer demolition.

This time around I'm starting to scratch out a clean-sheet approach to SOHO (Small Office, Home Office) design. So, for my fellow SOHO'ers on Saipan and elsewhere, I'll share some of my thoughts. And, as always, you can always email me some of yours.

As for the easy side of the equation, a typical office will, of course, have bookshelves, file cabinets, and office supplies. Nothing says that we have to keep all of this stuff in our small office, though. We can stage things as necessary.

Next we ponder the chair and desk. I'll note a positive trend on the chair note: Among manufacturers there seems to be wider appreciation for the merits of good ergonomics. After all, our working days add up to working decades. Our backs and necks are eventually going to answer to our behavior.

Most of my office time is spent reading books. This is surely easier on the body than computers are. Still, just to be safe, I bought a comfortable desk chair for under $200. It's adjustable in so many dimensions that you'd need a string theory expert at MIT to count them all. I don't want to sound like a hectoring geezer, but, yeah, a decent chair is worth it.

One of my friends went Full Goober on the gig and bought a $1,100 office chair to stave off backaches. If I ever have so much as a hint of desk-induced back pain, I'll be going Full Goober as well.

Well, so far, so simple, but I have realized that much of the SOHO realm involves what I'll call flat space. This can be tricky.

A desk is the most obvious example of a flat space. It's what comes to mind when we think of an office. But a desk isn't the last word. It's just the first word.

A desk is a lousy place to park appliances such as printers, fax machines, scanners, copiers, binding machines, hole punches, routers, and so on. This stuff really needs its own territory. I found myself accumulating this equipment piece by piece, which makes sense, but finding space for it on a piece-by-piece basis winds up making less sense.

The best solution I can come up for appliances is a long surface that runs along a wall. Even for a very small office, a seven-foot run isn't overkill.

This leads me to my third type of flat space, which I'll call assembly space. This is where we collate documents and do similar pull-a-project-together stuff. Having a dedicated surface keeps these tasks from intruding on desk space. Before I ponder this any further, I have to mention a SOHO element that we haven't yet considered.

That element is visitors.

Are we entertaining clients? Even if we're not, we'll probably be hosting collaborators at some point. An office as a one-person sheath is a lot different than an office that has room for more than one person.

One of the best solutions I've seen is to have a small conference table that seats, say, six people. The good news is that when guests aren't present the table can do double-duty as the assembly space I mentioned. Unfortunately, a six-person table, with generous enough wall clearance to keep people from feeling pinned down, might require more space than a SOHO can provide.

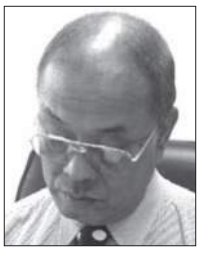
What then? Well, we can always go junior-executive style and put a couple of office chairs opposite the working side of the desk. No, I don't like this arrangement. Yes, I have used it.

Space permitting, we can split the difference by having a sitting area with, say, a couple of armchairs and a low table. True, this table isn't going to work very well for the assembly space I mentioned, but it's better than nothing. Overall, this arrangement is probably better than the junior-executive approach. I intend to use the armchair-and-low-table arrangement the next time I'm putting together a SOHO.

As I fit these elements together I'll note that the long surface for appliances seems simple at first glance, but it can claim a lot of wall space. Unlike a bookshelf, it provides very little vertical latitude for the presentation of its elements. People will reach up, or down, to grab a book. But to use a fax machine? Nope. To use a copier? Nope again. I'm no interior decorator, but, for my utilitarian outlook, the wall space above this surface can be reclaimed by hanging photos or other stuff that you wanted to display.

I'm still closing in on my ideal SOHO design. I don't yet know how much space it will require. What I do know is that there's no substitute for experience. The decades I've spent using SOHO space have taught me things I never would have considered up front. Ah, such is the road to demolition.

Shafting the taxpayers!



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Outrage was the instant reaction of folks all over about the new legislative salary of $75,000 per year. No, you didn't wake up from a bad nightmare. It's the truth! It's one sure step they've taken to cement their Cadillac lifestyle!

Let's simplify the new raise. There are 25,658 employees CNMI-wide. Some 51 percent or 13,085 are earning poverty income level or less. Did you get this, *pindehu*?

Federal definition of poverty income is $24,000 for a family of two and $26,000 for a family of four. How many are earning below this level?

Former speaker Oscar C. Rasa says it isn't the conscionable thing to do, for it creates disparity between poorer workers and their elected officials. He noted that instead of raising their salaries their focus must zero-in on how to improve the family income level of the working people NMI-wide.

Moreover, the law requires the appointment of a commission outside the Legislature. This didn't happen but the Legislature established one comprised of its own membership and hurriedly passed its own pay raise.

The commission is legally mandated to use the composite price index—a method indicating the rise of the cost of living here—upon which a figure is used for legislative salary increases. This requirement was also bypassed, in obvious violation of the law.

Currently, legislators are earning over $15,000 more annually against those who had to endure poverty level income and below. Legislators now earn $39,500 per year. Eh, they also get car leases paid for by, yes, we the taxpayers!

It boggles the mind if the gals and guys have attained academic and professional credentials to even dream up such humiliation. Or is it because of such ignorance that they had the courage to inflict self-humiliation?

Anyone among you has a mastery of something justifying a huge salary? Why would you be earning more than the fully educated and degreed NMC or PSS instructors and registered nurses? "Biba" is not a ticket for your combined ignorance and obvious arrogance!

Review: Have any of you come to realize that all federal grants and programs are accompanied by a set of policies? Do you realize there's nothing you could do to improve or even chance amending it? Do you understand the concept of supremacy of laws?

Recalled former speaker Heinz Hofschneider's proposal to turn the Legislature into a part-time body. This, people, should be your focus over imposing your insatiable desire to fill up your pockets. It would save taxpayers millions of dollars per year paying for incomplete and warped representation! Another visionary whose counsel must be heeded!

In my many conversations with the late former speaker Mitch Pangelinan, he too fervently hopes the elected elite meets to do the right things by doing them right. I appreciate the sense of vision, calm, depth and clarity of the three former speakers.

Unfortunately, greed has blurred the eyesight of those now in office. They've openly ignored the needs of over 13,000-plus employees who stretch what little they earn to make ends meet for their families. At issue, Mr. Legislator, is your willful blindness to fill your pockets while sinking families deeper into the abyss of hardship in abject poverty.

The salary raise increases the governor's loot from $70,000 per year to $120,000. Among territorial governors, Guam's titular head makes $90,000 per year. Salaries on this front are based on a standard such as population, breadth of socio-economic programs, etc. It isn't picked off thin air as it was done here.

Judges have specialties supported by BA/BS, three years of law school and professional experience thus the $120,000 per year. What is your specialty or mastery, if any? Is this something you'd like to explain?

What "we the people" see with our eyes determines the future of juveniles behind such reckless and adolescent agenda. It's only next year when our verdict would ensure your final journey into the sunset. *Not a condemnatory piece but an active and proactive observation of greedy and misguided politicians.*

Salute to Mayor Apatañg: Among mayors of recent past, Mayor David M. Apatang is uniquely the most outstanding of officials who've served in this capacity. His chief of staff, Henry Hofscheneider, has rallied the troops to keep the island pristine, as it should be.

Apatang's forte is organization and practices what a leader does best: gather his people together to fulfill a task benefiting the folks at home. This is what leadership is all about. The mayor has done exactly this! He deserves public acclamation if he plans to seek re-election next year. *Si yuus maase`!*

Digital Age: Although there's dedicated efforts to revive the local culture, the ways of islanders is further threatened by the intrusion and adoption of the digital age, not to mention the derailing influence of colonial powers.

In the process, technology has shifted normal family activities from dinnertime conversations to instant texting. Kids use their phones and iPhones daily. Recalled a family patriarch who asked his son if he's said his prayers. The kid, using his iphone, sent him an instant message, "I did." Too busy on his iPhone, the father asked a second time. "It's in your iPhone, dad".

Indeed, we've entered a juncture in modern life, as though driving a car at night our vision is limited to the end of the headlight. In other words, everything after that is dark. You wouldn't know what to expect.

Be that as it may, we should be mindful that mastery of technology can never replace a parent's interaction with his or her child… talking to your child is the best way to encourage learning.

TRUMP

From Page 14

Or was something darker at work? On Twitter this week, Trump claimed Comey was "the best thing that ever happened to Hillary Clinton." Is the administration now gunning for Clinton, never mind that she's a private citizen?

No matter what answers eventually emerge, doubt will cloud them, unless a special prosecutor can restore some semblance of justice. Given Sessions' recusal, Rosenstein must now summon the will to appoint one, if he cares at all about his department's—and this government's—credibility.

(c)2017 *The Sacramento Bee* (Sacramento, Calif.)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Mrs. Toelkes, here are the facts

Dear GPSM president Amellia Toelkes: Under normal circumstances, I would choose not to respond to you, as your comments are ridiculous, but I will proceed forward to clarify a few things.

First and foremost, your gender, or being a woman, has nothing to do with your fraudulent General Pacific Services Marianas request for quotation submittal. I have never once stated that your gender makes you less qualified, or not qualified, so please stick to the facts.

If you claim to own 100 percent of GPSM, then why did you fail to participate in any of the negotiations for the GPSM RFQ? You were *never* present. It seems the only time you were involved was when you and your husband, Robert Toelkes, were having meetings and offering unsolicited proposals to CUC board members, like the asinine $160-million reverse osmosis scheme that would have been a disaster for our CUC ratepayers.

Mrs. Toelkes, here are the facts. Your signature is on the RFQ and you are the 100 percent owner and president of GPSM, yet you hired a chief negotiator to do your bidding. You were never even present during the discussions and negotiations with CUC management and their legal counsel, but your husband, Robert Toelkes, was present. So who is the owner and president of GPSM? Is it you or Mr. Toelkes?

Your GPSM RFQ for the emergency purchase order of an 8- to 10-megawatt generator was riddled with not just lies but *fraud*. Your RFQ claims a partnership with Fairbanks Morse as you must at least have a partnership with an OEM (original equipment manufacturer) to qualify for the RFQ, but that proved not to be the case. The truth is, your company was simply going to be the salesman, or middleman, for Fairbanks Morse. Furthermore, you were not even involved in the negotiations with Fairbanks Morse. Your husband, Mr. Robert Toelkes, was. In fact, Power Generation Segment manager David McCallum wrote a "letter of correction" that appeared in the *Marianas Variety* on April 17. Mr. McCallum stated, "Fairbanks Morse was not a 'partner' to GPSM nor were they a signatory to the agreement between GPSM and CUC." Let me add that, according to CUC legal counsel Jim Sirok's public comments at our House committee meeting on April 11, your chief negotiator, Guam Sen. James Espaldon, claimed on the first day of the negotiations that there was a partnership between your GPSM company and Fairbanks Morse, but on the second day, claimed there was no partnership. If there was no partnership with Fairbanks Morse, then GPSM is not qualified to even be considered for the RFQ. So who is lying here? Are you saying that CUC legal counsel Jim Sirok and CUC deputy director William Gilmore are lying?

With regard to your GPSM RFQ, you committed fraud when you claimed that your less than one-year-old company was responsible for several successful projects on Saipan and throughout Micronesia and that you were in business since 1983. Please note that your 100-percent owned company, GPSM, submitted the RFQ, not your husband, Robert Toelkes. Not his father. Not his bankrupt company in Guam that owes millions of dollars to the Guam government and the IRS. And not your companies based in Guam. If you like, we can go over your RFQ that you submitted and I will gladly show you the pages where *fraud* was committed. Let me know when you have time and we can sit down together with CUC's legal counsel, our House counsels, the Attorney General, OPA, and the FBI. I look forward to our meeting and I am sure we all would be happy to ask you a lot of questions since you didn't show up for the House committee meeting regarding the emergency RFQ for the 8- to 10-megawatt generator. You were absent, just as you were absent during the critical negotiations with CUC management and CUC legal counsel Jim Sirok. I did notice your husband, Robert Toelkes, in the audience during our House meeting, sitting right next to your chief negotiator, Sen. Espaldon. Aside from you, also missing from April 11's committee meeting was your GPSM agent, Albert Taitano, who just so happens to be a *member of the CUC board*. Also missing was your vice president of GPSM, Mr. Phillip Roberto, who just so happens to be the stepson of CUC board chair Adelina Roberto, and also the chief of staff of Sen. Espaldon. Mrs. Toelkes, are you aware that these conflicts of interest are not just unethical, but could be considered illegal if collusion was involved? I can assure you, my good colleagues and I will continue to look into your GPSM RFQ submittal. We hope that should you be called to answer questions in the near future that you will be willing to take an oath.

Mrs. Toelkes, CUC chair Adelina Roberto claimed during our April 11 House meeting with CUC that she did not see her stepson Phillip Roberto's name on the articles of incorporation for GPSM, and that she only saw your name and the name of your treasurer, Ms. Kimberly Smith. The fact is, Phillip Roberto's name as vice president of your 100-percent owned company was right between your name and Ms. Kimberly Smith's name. How could she have missed that? If chair Roberto stated on record that his name was never there, then we are to assume that either she is lying, or that you edited it and inserted his name later. So what could it be? It is something that the OAG, OPA, and the FBI must investigate and find how that was possible? It is obvious someone is lying here. Who could it be?

Mrs. Toelkes, as 100 percent owner of GPSM, I want to ask you two questions: Have you ever procured or purchased a power plant engine before? What is your background and experience in power plant engines and generators? I look forward to your answers but also ask that you give us your educational background and degree.

Mrs. Toelkes, what is your relationship to Guam Sen. James Espaldon? Why would he fly down to Saipan to be your chief negotiator? How is it possible that as chief negotiator, Sen. Espaldon *never knew* that his chief of staff, Phillip Roberto, just so happened to be your vice president? Now surely you all met and discussed things. You are the president and 100 percent owner of GPSM, are you not? So please do explain to me and the rest of the CUC ratepayers why a Guam senator would fly to Saipan on different occasions and agree to be the chief negotiator. Are you paying him? Did you pay for his plane ticket or accommodations? Did he do this all for free? If he did, why would he? Please do explain how you were able to get a Guam senator to do all of this for you for *free*. I am sure the Guam Legislature's ethics committee would like you to share this information with them as well.

Mrs. Toelkes, in closing, please stick with the facts at hand and don't try to sidestep here. There is an investigation underway and as a representative of our people and as a ratepayer of CUC, I will do everything in my power to ensure *our people* are not deceived and lied to. No company shall get special treatment or special deals under my watch. And as a father of a daughter and three sons, my wife Daisy and I do everything we can to encourage and empower them to be the best they can be in life. Our children's gender has absolutely nothing to do with their future nor is their gender responsible for their actions and decisions they make in their lives. It is deplorable and shameful that you would even insinuate such a thing.

If you would like to set up a meeting to discuss this further with myself and my colleagues and our legal counsel, Attorney General Edward Manibusan, OPA Auditor Mike Pai, the FBI, and CUC legal counsel Jim Sirok, please let me know and I will be more than happy to set up the meeting. Thank you.

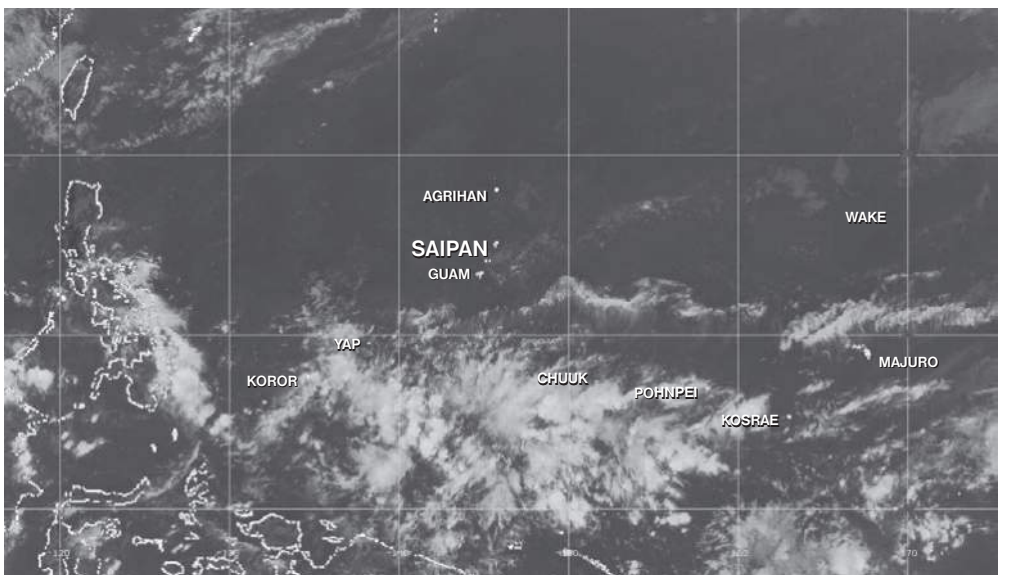
Rep. Ed Propst
Capital Hill, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mixed clouds and sun with scattered thunderstorms.	Variable clouds with scattered thunderstorms.	Scattered thunderstorms in the morning, with mostly cloudy skies late.	Scattered clouds with the possibility of an isolated thunderstorm developing during the afternoon.	Partly cloudy in the morning followed by scattered thunderstorms in the afternoon.
▲85° ▼78°	▲84° ▼79°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼79°	▲86° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 4:36 AM, THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Dry season trade-wind regime remains firmly in place across the Marianas. Even the Tropical Upper Tropospheric Trough is having trouble getting going this year, and is still mired in the date line. Until it pushes a bit farther west, the Marianas will likely remain in benign weather and the northern Marshall Islands will remain in severe to extreme drought conditions. The ECMWF- HiRes, NavGem and GFS all show dry weather continuing. Just refreshed and extended waves and winds, recalculated wind dependent grids and lowered the sky cover in days 8 through 10 where it looks like it will be even less than now.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86 | 79 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	85 | 78 °F
Yap	Mostly cloudy	87 | 72 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86 | 81 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85 | 78 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85 | 80 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85 | 81 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	64 | 52 °F
Beijing	Thunderstorms	83 | 70 °F
Hong Kong	Mostly cloudy	84 | 77 °F
Honolulu	Sunny	83 | 72 °F
London	Rain	66 | 51 °F
Los Angeles	Partly cloudy	70 | 56 °F
Manila	Sunny	92 | 79 °F
Melbourne	Mostly cloudy	60 | 40 °F
Miami	Partly cloudy	89 | 74 °F
New York	Cloudy	55 | 49 °F
Osaka	Partly cloudy	76 | 64 °F
Paris	Rain	70 | 53 °F
Pusan	Partly cloudy	82 | 54 °F
Rome	Sunny	80 | 58 °F
Salem	Rain	57 | 44 °F
San Francisco	Sunny	60 | 51 °F
Seoul	Sunny	77 | 52 °F
Tokyo	Partly cloudy	81 | 64 °F
Washington, DC	Rain	56 | 52 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:45 AM	LOW TIDE	0.96
7:48 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.86
2:57 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.11
9:37 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.84

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Sunday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Monday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Tuesday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	6:43 AM	7:44 PM
Saturday	-	7:26 AM	8:33 PM
Sunday	-	8:12 AM	9:21 PM
Monday	-	8:59 AM	10:09 PM
Tuesday	-	9:48 AM	10:56 PM

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 25, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5

SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)

7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:50am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 3, 4, 6
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4

JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN

7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Thank You, Mom!

ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

An array of special treats for mom!

Mothers bear the sweetest name. Mothers bear the toughest challenges. Mothers bear the dreams, hopes and fears of her children. Mothers bear the wisdom and strength that her family is built on. Mothers bear the unconditional love that we will find nowhere else.

Mother's Day is the perfect opportunity to show your love, appreciation, and gratitude to your mother or the woman who reared you. This is her special time and here are some suggestions on how you can express your love, say "thank you" and make your mother's heart smile.

MAKE HER DAY WITH BLOSSOMS. Surprise her with flowers at her favorite spot in the house, on her breakfast tray or give it to her in person and make her blush.

New Paradise Flower Shop lets you send you love in many ways. They have tulips, lucky bamboo, fruit and wine baskets, gift baskets, roses in different packages, chocolates, stuffed toys and balloons (your choice of mylar or latex). You can place an order by calling 233-9875 or visit them at Gualo Rai across Shell gas station on Middle Road.

Design Florist says mom deserves the best. They have one dozen roses, single roses wrap, spring arrangements, and fruit/gift basket. They offer 20-percent off on silk flower arrangements. They are open Monday to Saturday 8:30am to 6pm and Sunday 9am to 12pm. Place an order by calling 234-5593 or 235-8572 or visit them at Cabrera Center, Beach Road, Garapan.

MAKE MOTHER'S TUMMY HAPPY. Tell your mother to let go of the spatula and pan and leave her kitchen because you are eating out. Several restaurants on island are celebrating Mother's Day with special promos.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan wants you to live the Fiesta way by participating in a Mother's Day Brunch at World Café on May 14, 2017 from 11am to 2pm. Aside from good food, there will be a free flowing red/white wine, sparkling wine, beer and juice. Let mom sing along to music from a live band. A special gift awaits all mothers plus complimentary family picture and pool passes are available. For reservations call 233-6414,483-0462 or 234-7171 Ext. 1548.

Kanoa Resort Saipan invites you to its Mother's Day special on May 14, 2017, at Isla Café Restaurant from 11am to 2pm and enjoy bottomless Miller Lite beer and sparkling wine. For reservations call 264-6601 Ext. 742/743.

Saipan World Resort has a Mother's Day special brunch at The Buffet World on May 14, 2017. There will be raffle prizes and live entertainment. Mom can enjoy their upgraded menu and bottomless wine, beer, juice and soda. For reservations call 234-5900 Ext. 388.

Grandvrio Resort Saipan welcomes all mothers to their fantastic buffet at Tropicana Restaurant. All-you-can-eat sushi, sashimi, ham, rib-eye and all -you-can-drink champagne and beers while listening to live performance. A small gift is available to mothers. For reservations call 237-2537 or email : food.beverage@grandvrio-saipan.com.

Aqua Resort Club Saipan will have a Mother's Day Sunday Brunch at Costa Terrace Restaurant on May 14, 2017. The buffet is eat-all-you-can and drink-all-you-can that includes sparkling wines, beers, and beverages. Each mom will receive a special corsage. There will be photo booths for families and a raffle draw for one-night room accommodation with breakfast for two.

McDonald's Saipan is lovin' all the mothers. Treat Mom to breakfast, lunch or dinner at McDonald's and get 10-percent off on total purchase. Offer is valid on May 14 only. Available at both McDonald's main and Garapan stores. Mothers must be present to receive the discount and promo applies to in-store purchases only.

DO THE SPOILING THIS TIME. She spoiled us growing up and now it is your time to spoil and pamper Mom.

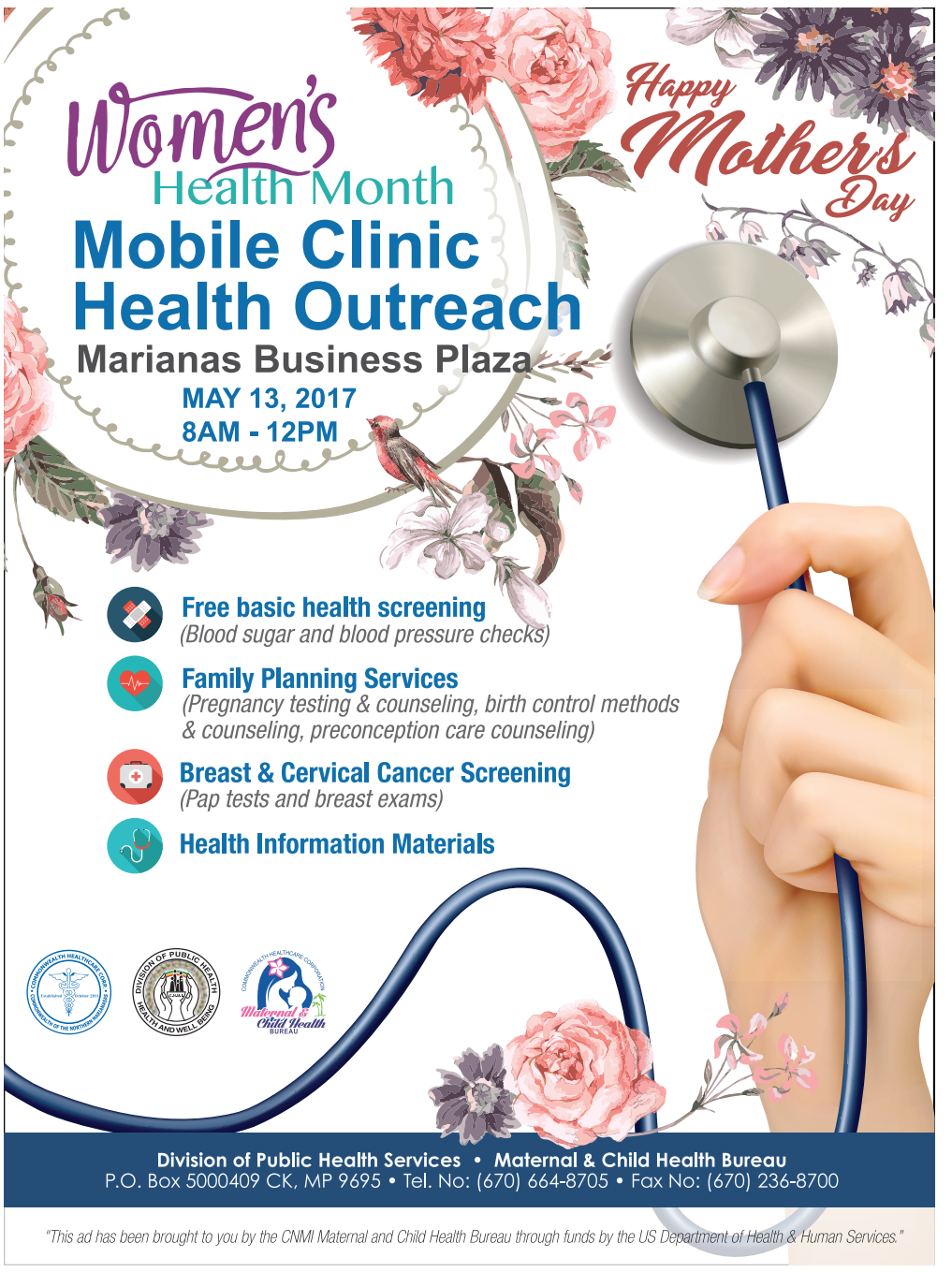
Natural Nail Spa & Salon offers Pamper Mom Specials. "Perk Me Up Work Days" includes an Xpress Manicure and classic pedicure and hair spa (any length) for $50. The "Smooth Me" package includes eyebrow, underarm and Brazilian or full leg waxing for $50. The "Pamper Me" package is a one-hour body massage, classic manicure with deep dermal transforming wrap, and Sweet Escape pedicure with paraffin wax dip for $65.

They are open Monday to Saturday 10am to 8pm and Sundays 1pm to 6pm. Located at Micro Beach Road (next to Swirls). Please contact 233-6245.

With every new activation, **IT&E** gives mothers more chances to win a Mother's Day massage and brunch for two. This promo is good until the end of May. For more information visit any IT&E store or call 682-4ITE or visit www.ite.net.

See SPECIAL TREATS on Page 24

WORLD RESORT
SAIPAN
Mother's Day
SPECIAL BRUNCH
SUNDAY, MAY 14 2017
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Mother's Day special brunch at
THE BUFFET WORLD
with upgraded menu with raffle prizes from
Saipan World Resort inclusive of all you can eat
and bottomless wine, beer, juice and soda
plus Live entertainment.
$30 | $15
ADULTS KIDS (6 TO 11)
FOR RESERVATIONS, PLEASE CALL:
(670) 234-5900 EXT. 388


Women's Health Month
Happy Mother's Day
Mobile Clinic
Health Outreach
Marianas Business Plaza
MAY 13, 2017
8AM - 12PM
Free basic health screening
(Blood sugar and blood pressure checks)
Family Planning Services
(Pregnancy testing & counseling, birth control methods & counseling, preconception care counseling)
Breast & Cervical Cancer Screening
(Pap tests and breast exams)
Health Information Materials
Division of Public Health Services • Maternal & Child Health Bureau
P.O. Box 5000409 CK, MP 9695 • Tel. No: (670) 664-8705 • Fax No: (670) 236-8700
"This ad has been brought to you by the CNMI Maternal and Child Health Bureau through funds by the US Department of Health & Human Services."

VOX POPULI

By BEA CABRERA
REPORTER

Mothers—biological or not—get to have their day this Sunday. We asked people what they appreciate most about their Nana, Inay, Mama, Mommy and they all had a quick answer. Thank you to all the Mothers for you love. Happy Mother's Day!

"Mommy is nice. She misses me and I miss her too. We play jack en poy (rock, paper, scissors) and gives me presents."
—Zayne Reyes, Dandan

See VOX POPULI on Page 22

What do you appreciate most about your mom?

"What I appreciate most about my mother is her strength. My family went through a lot but my mother is resilient and never showed weakness."
—Carmen Hasselback, San Vicente

Happy Mother's Day
Mother hold their child's hand for a moment
and their heart for a lifetime...
From the management and staff of
Tan Holdings
www.tanholdings.com
Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Mother's Day
SPECIAL
Treat you beloved Mom for breakfast, lunch or dinner and get 10% OFF on your total purchase
Offer is valid on May 14, 2017 only.
Available at both Main and Garapan Stores
Mothers must be present to receive discount
Applicable to IN-STORE PURCHASE only

new
SIGNATURE CRAFTED™ recipes
Premium Recipes. Authentic ingredients.
Maple Bacon Dijon
Sweet BBQ Bacon
3
STEPS TO ENJOYING THE SIGNATURE CRAFTED™ BURGERS & CHICKEN
Pick your recipe
maple bacon dijon
sweet bbq bacon
Select a protein
burger
crispy chicken
grilled chicken
Choose your bun
artisan roll
sesame seed bun
STORE HOURS: Garapan Express: OPEN 24 HRS [24/7] • Chalan Pale Arnold Road: 6:30am to 10:00pm
Chalan Pale Arnold Road 235-8577 • Garapan Express 233-8577 • Office Tel. 235-8761 • Fax. 235-8760 • E-mail: admin@jcamcd.com

A Mother's Day to Remember

GREETINGS

Dear Mom,

"I just wanted to say Happy Mother's Day! Thank you so much from the bottom of our hearts for all of the things you do! You are truly a blessing to all of us and everyone around you. Thank you for showing me what love is and expressing it through many ways. Though at times we don't say it, we love you so much mom! Thank you for not only being my mom, but also my friend that I can always talk to. You are the most caring and kindest person I know, and I admire you for that. I hope that one day I become a person just like you. Happy Mother's Day again, Mom! ♥

Love,
Ador, Alwyn, Abby, Aica & Allan

To my one and only mother, I can never repay you for everything you've done for me but you will always have my love. I am truly grateful for you. Thank you for never giving up on me, even when you're at your wits end, and for your unconditional love – I appreciate you more than you know.
Happy Mother's Day!

Love,
Camille

P.S. Your curfew is still 10PM ☺

Happy Mother's Day to Marilou Arriola.

Love,
Ed and the kids.

Mom, Thank you for always sharing your smiles, your hugs, your words of encouragement and for all the countless times you've been there for us.
We love you!
Love,
Ray, Russ, Rap

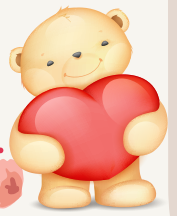
May all the love you gave to us come back to you a hundred fold on this special day!

Love,
Grand kids and
Great grand kids

Mother stands for Magnificent, Optimistic, Trust-worthy, Heroine, Entertaining, Romantic.
To us, you are all of these and so much more.
We are so fortunate to have you as our Mom. Happy Mothers Day Nanay Awring!
We love you.

Happy Mother's Day

to the wonderful Nanay of McDonald's.
Wishing you all the love and happiness you so richly deserve.



God has blessed us with a perfect mother and grandmother who loves us unconditionally and wholeheartedly. Happy Mothers' Day to the best Mom and Grandma that had ever lived!

Love,
Ronald, Alyssa
Miles & Nate

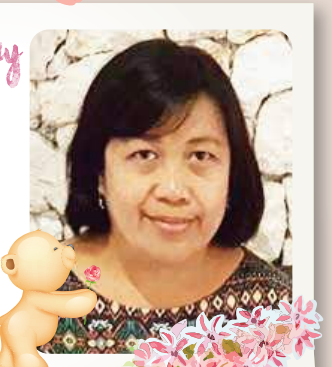
Honey,
God's gift to me, a wonderful wife and an amazing mother to our child (Stacey). I thank the Lord for so much blessing.
Happy Mother's Day.

Love,
Ian

happy mother's day

to my beautiful and loving wife, Osang! Thank you for always going above and beyond for our family. I'm so grateful to be sharing life and parenthood with someone as awesome as you. I will forever love you!

Love,
Ronald



Sa aking Mahal (Monica),
Ikaw ay isang napakabuting regalo mula sa ating Panginoon. Ako ay patuloy na nagpapasalamat dahil sa patuloy na pagbibigay mo ng galak sa aking puso. Salamat sa iyong walang sawang suporta at pagmamahal sa akin at sa ating anak na si Nicole.

Mahal na mahal kita,
Elmer

Thanks for being there through the tears, laughter and dirty diapers. Thank you for all the ways you go above and beyond every day for our family. We are so lucky to have you.
Happy Mother's Day!

Love,
Arvin & Aiden

Life has never been perfect, it probably never will. But I will never ever lose hope, because I know I always have you to stand by me even if the whole world falls apart. We love you so much, more than you even know.
Just remember that always okay?
Happy Mother's day Nommy!

Love,
Paolo & Angela

To the GREAT moms in my life,
Thank God for giving our moms to us as a blessing which I would be grateful for the rest of my life. Teaching me in your most special way and picking me up when Iwas down. Ordinary people doing extra ordinary job that I can never comprehend.
I love you with all my heart.
Love,
Michael

Happy mothers day ma. I know I don't show my appreciation for you as often as I should but I appreciate you a lot and this message is a small gesture of my appreciation. I hope this surprises you a little and I hope it puts a smile on your face. Happy Mother's Day again!

Love,
Kim

To my beautiful wife Jenny,
Your life has been a great blessing to me and to our children. God must have loved us so much for giving us a wonderful Mother (wife) like you are. Today, we want to honor you and recognize all your sacrifices for our family. We love you so much!

Lovingly,
Jojo and kids

Thank you, Mom!

There will be so many TIMES you feel like you've FAILED. But in the eyes, HEART, and mind of your child you are super mom.

DESIGN
Florist
Mother's Day
Mom deserves the best!
Flowers, gift items, and more...
One Dozen Roses / Single Roses Wrap / Spring Arrangements
Fruit/Gift Basket
Memorial Arrangement Sprays
Free delivery to all cemeteries
STORE HOURS:
Monday-Saturday 8:30am - 6:00pm
Sunday 9:00am - 12 noon
Get 20% off
on Silk Flower Arrangements!
Cabrera Center, Beach Road, Garapan • For more information, please call 234-5593 or 235-8572

Happy Mother's Day!

Looking for the perfect gift for Mom?

Shop T Galleria's wide assortment of Handbags, Wallets, Cosmetics, Fragrances, Watches, Jewelry and More!

While you shop, get a chance to win 100,000 Loyal T Points, a $1,000 Value!*

*MUST BE A LOYAL T MEMBER, SIGN UP IS FREE. GET AUTOMATICALLY ENTERED TO WIN WITH EVERY TRANSACTION $40 OR MORE. TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY. SEE A SALES ASSOCIATE FOR DETAILS. PROMOTION ENDS MAY 14.

T GALLERIA DFS

BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN MP 96950 | 1.6710.233.6602 | 1030 AM TO 1030 PM
TGALLERIA.COM

See our amazing array of indoor and outdoor plants
in beautiful ceramic vases.
A Perfect gift for mom.....and no calories!
Happy Mothers Day!
Business Hours: Tue - Fri 4pm - 6pm • Sat, Sun, Mon 8am - 6pm
Vietnam
HOME GALLERY

NEW
PARADISE FLOWER SHOP
Send your love with flowers
A OPTION
6 full bloom Roses with mini Roses in a Glass Vase
B OPTION
6 Roses, Stuffed Toys, Chocolate, HMD Balloon & HMD Pick in a Glass Vase
C OPTION
1 Dozen Roses, Stuffed Toys, Chocolate, HMD Balloon & HMD Pick in a Glass Vase
Tulips Orchids Lucky Bamboo Fruit & Wine Baskets Gift Baskets
Roses (Comes in Different Packaging) Chocolates Stuffed Toys
HMD Balloons (Choices of Mylar or Latex)
To place your order, please call 233-9875 and look for Robert.
You can also visit our shop located in Middle Road, Gualo Rai across Shell Gas Station.
New Paradise Florist
MIDDLE ROAD
SHELL
FHB
PIZZA HUT

"She helps me with my homework and she makes me do my responsibility. I love my mommy."
—Tobi Buenaflor, As Lito

"My mom cooks for me and she tells me she loves me. That makes my day even better."
—Vince Teregeyo, Puerto Rico

She is very hardworking. Dedicated to family and she is always there for everyone. Not only for her children but also for others."
—Rowenalyn Romolor Jack, Chalan Laolao

"I appreciate her sacrifices and dedication to make sure we have a good life. She does not think of anything else except us, her family."
—Charles Camacho, Kagman

"I love how she gives her love and care, especially to my son. She is a hardworking person and she will do anything for the family."
—Temera Camacho, Papago

Car Seat Checkup Top 5 things to do

Right Seat.

This is an easy one. Check the label on your car seat to make sure it's appropriate for your child's age, weight and height. Like milk, your car seat has an expiration date. Just double check the label on your car seat to make sure it is still safe.

Right Place.

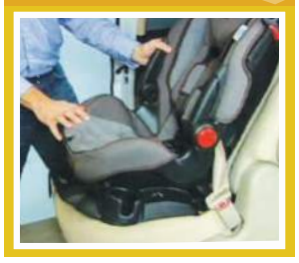
Kids are VIPs, just ask them. We all know VIPs ride in the back seat, so keep all children in the back seat until they are 13.

Right Direction.

You want to keep your child in a rear-facing car seat for as long as possible, usually until the age of 2 or when the child reaches the maximum height or weight limit required by the car seat manufacturer. Once the child outgrows the rear-facing position, they are ready to move to a forward facing seat or position.

Check for Tightness.

Once your car seat is installed, pull on the seat from all directions to check whether it is secured and should not move more than an inch. Check your car seat manual when installing a car seat using top tether and lower anchors.



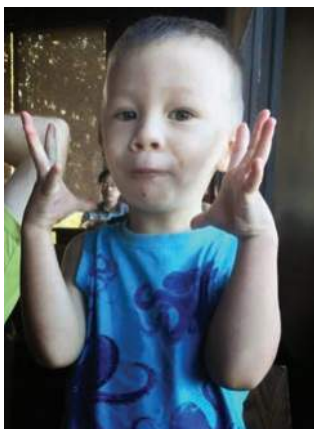
Pinch Test.

Make sure the harness is tightly buckled and coming from the correct slots (check car seat manual). Now, with the chest clip placed at armpit level, pinch the strap at your child's shoulder. If you are unable to pinch any excess webbing, you're good to go.

Please read the vehicle and car seat instruction manuals to help you with this checklist. If you are having even the slightest trouble, questions or concerns, don't worry about a thing. You can contact Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians at the numbers below.

Please contact the CHCC Maternal & Child Health Bureau at 664-8703 or the DPS Car Seat Program at 664-9125 to speak with a Child Passenger Safety Technician.

This ad has been brought to you by the CNMI Maternal and Child Health Bureau through funds by the US Department of Health & Human Services."



"SHE SLEEPS BESIDE ME AND SHE IS THERE WHEN I WAKE UP. MOMMY PACKS MY FOOD FOR SCHOOL AND THEY ARE YUMMY."
—Gabe Walsh, San Vicente

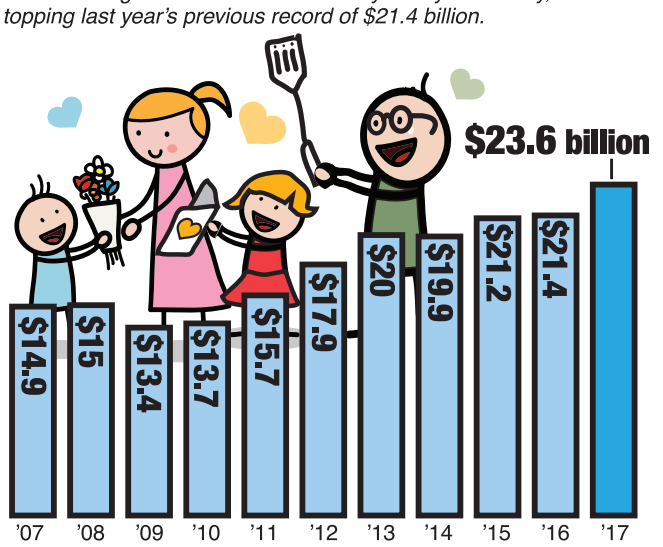
Live the Fiesta Way!
Mother's Day Brunch
at World Café
Because Mom deserves the very best!
May 14, 2017 (Sunday)
11am ~ 2pm
World Café Restaurant
$40 for Adult
$20 for Children (4~11 years old)
With Free flow of Red/White Wine, Sparkling Wine, Beer and Juice
A special gift will be given to all Mothers
Enjoy Live Entertainment
Complimentary Family Picture & Pool Passes Available.
HAPPY Mother's DAY
Special price for CNMI residents.
For reservations,
please call at 233-6414, 483-0462
or 234-7171 extension 1548.
FIESTA
Resort & SPA
SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

"I appreciate everything because she is a hard worker and the backbone of my whole family."

—Kenisha Aldan-Mario, Chalan Laolao

Mother's Day spending all-time high

Consumers say they will spend more than ever on Mother's Day this year. Total spending is expected to reach $23.6 billion. That's the highest number in the survey's 14-year history, topping last year's previous record of $21.4 billion.



Source: National Retail Federation
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

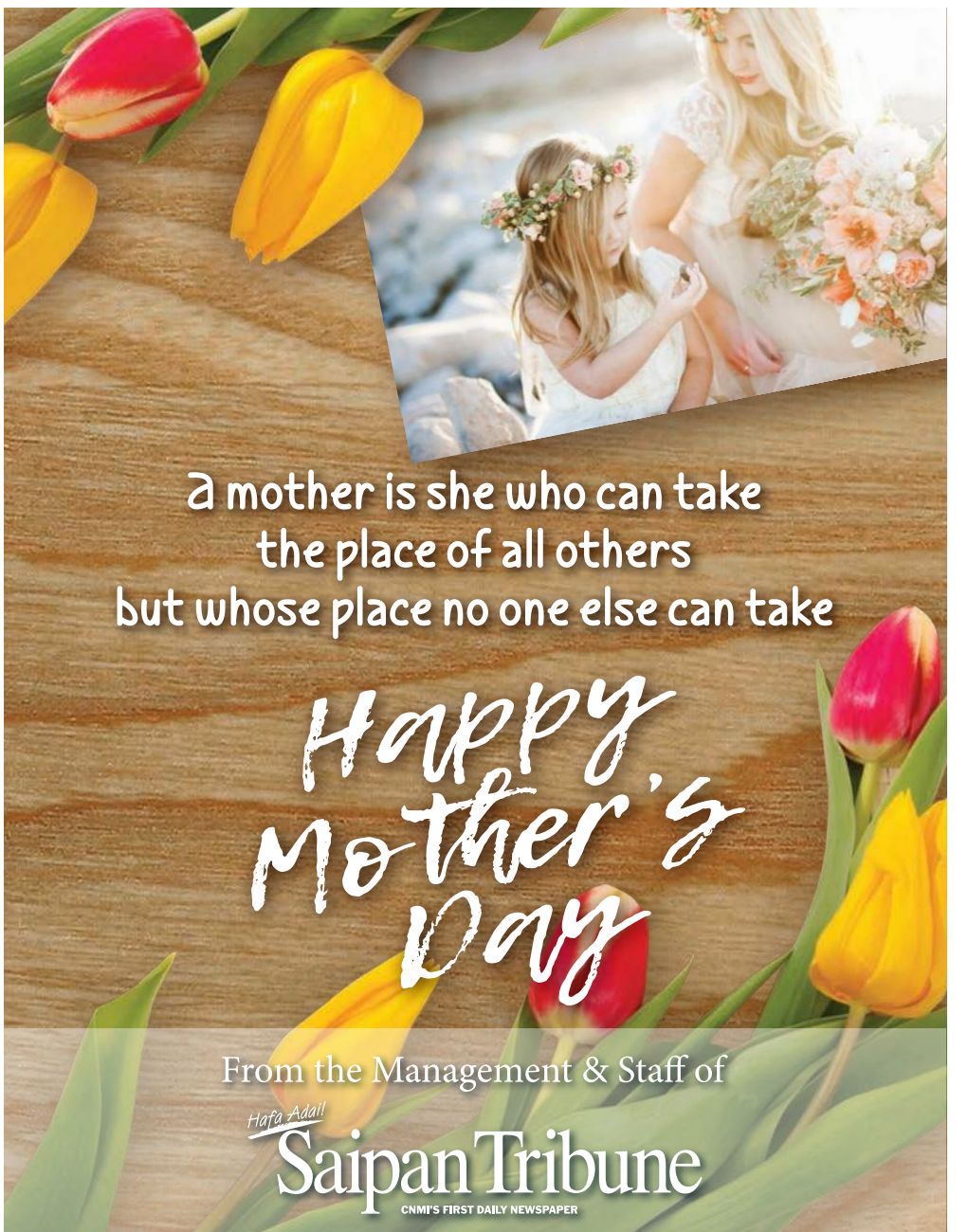
"My mother is always there for me and my kids. She is very loving and caring."

—Amber Kapileo, Chalan Kanoa

"By giving birth to me. Shoutout to my mother, Marilyn Taitaino."

—Jordan Taitano, Dandan

See VOX POPULI on Page 24


A mother is she who can take
the place of all others
but whose place no one else can take
Happy Mother's Day
From the Management & Staff of
Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

"My grandmother stood as my mother. She taught me how to do chores in the house and principles about life that I apply in my own life now. She taught me how to take care of myself and how to be independent."

—Rhea Backe, Dandan

"My mom always takes care of me and she is very loving."

—Emmanuel Pontiveros, Chinatown

"She is always there during the toughest times. My mom is giving and generous. She gives us her unconditional love.

—Rejoice Celeste, Gualo Rai

"My mom is a good person. I love her very much. She is a strong woman."

—Steven Sablan

GRAND VRIO RESORT SAIPAN

* Breakfast: 7:00am-10:00am * Lunch: 11:30am-2:00pm *Sunday Brunch: 11:00am-2:00pm *Dinner: 5:30pm-9:00pm

RESTAURANT TROPICANA

Happy Mother's Day

Small Gift Available for Mothers. Mother's Day Brunch - $25

Welcome to enjoy fantastic buffet at our **Tropicana Restaurant** (2nd floor of Taga Tower).
Performance is available on Sunday Brunch. All you can eat and drink! Sushi, Sashimi, Ham, Rib Eye, Champagne, beers...

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Breakfast Buffet $17 **Sunday Brunch $22** **Mother's Day Brunch $25** *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	Breakfast Buffet $17	Breakfast Buffet $17 *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	Breakfast Buffet $17 **Buffet Lunch $14** *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	Breakfast Buffet $17	Breakfast Buffet $17 **Buffet Lunch $14** *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	Breakfast Buffet $17 *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*

RESTAURANT DOLPHIN
(10th floor of Crystal Tower in Grandvrio Resort Saipan)
has reopened as A-La-Carte restaurant. Welcome to enjoy fast & nice Lunch Menu ($8~) and authentic Japanese Shabu Shabu or Sukiyaki for your dinner ($35). "Spectacular Ocean View and Sunset!" **Starting from Nov. 07, 2016, Dolphin restaurant brings out "Daily Chef's Special Lunch" from Mon. to Fri.; EVERYTHING IS DIFFERENT!$12 only, 15 servings per day; "First In First Out!"**

Opening time:
Everyday Lunch: 11:30am-2:00pm
Last Order: 1:30pm
Dinner 5:30pm-9:00pm
Last Order: 8:30pm

Starlight BBQ

Dinner Buffet Location:
Poolside Price: Reg. AD $39 CH: $19
(Local: AD $35/ CH $17)

Business Hours: 6pm-9pm

Menu: "All you can eat & drink"
Beers, red & white wine, soft drinks, oolong tea and juices.

AIRI COFFEE LOUNGE

Come and taste delicious curry & sandwich set ($7.00 only), cake, café latte, organic smoothies… with unique ocean view.

Business Hours: 10:00am-6:00pm
Pizza Set ($10.00) available now!

POOL SIDE BAR

Business Hours: 1pm-10pm
Last Order: 9:30pm
Happy Hour: 4pm - 7pm

20% Discount available for all drinks including cocktails!

For reservation or inquiry, please call: 670-237-2527 or E-mail: food.beverage@grandvrio-saipan.com

Natural Nail SPA & SALON

Pamper Mom

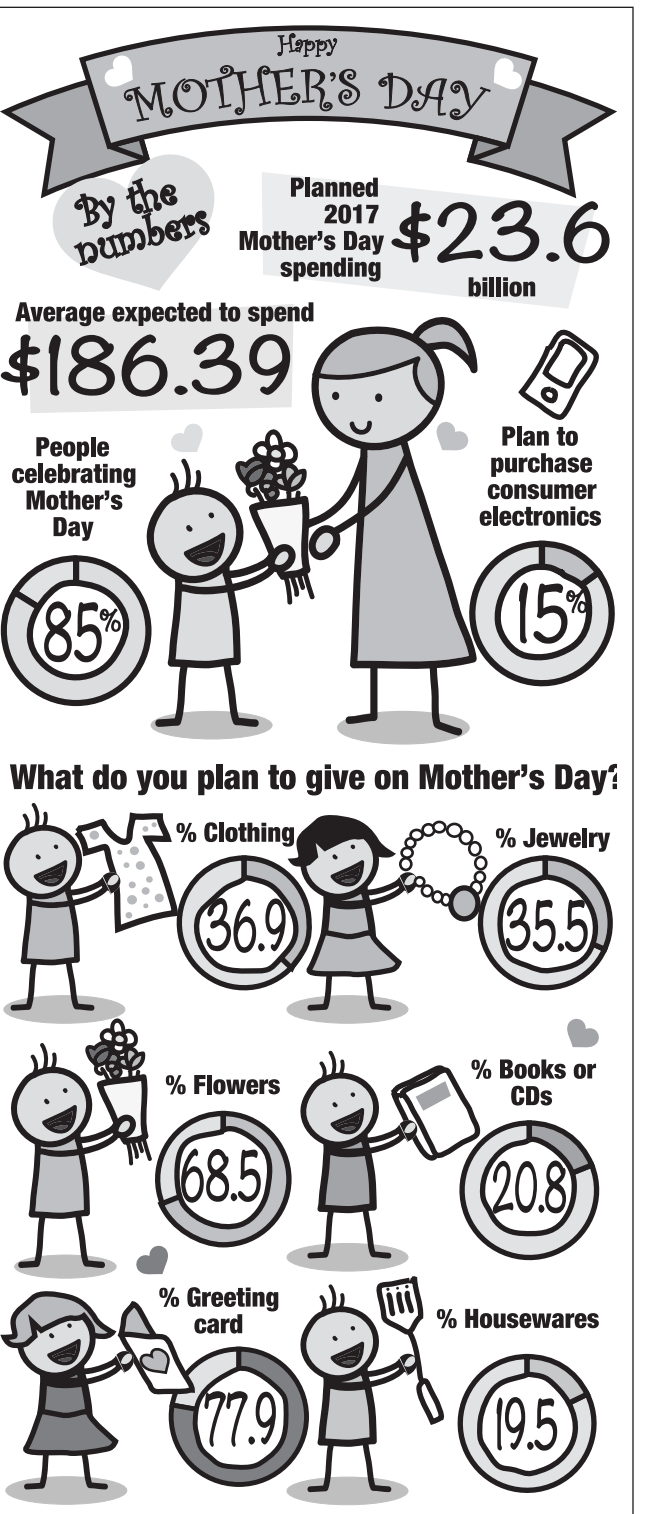
15% OFF ALL GIFT CERTIFICATES $100+

to a relaxing and rejuvenating treatment with these great packages

Perk me Up Work Days	Smooth Me Package	Pamper Me Package
Start the week right with your with Xpress Manicure and Classic Pedicure & Hair Spa (any length)	Eyebrow, Underarm & Brazilian or Full Leg Waxing	One-hour Body Massage, Classic Manicure w/ Deep Dermal Transforming Wrap and Sweet Escape Pedicure w/ Paraffin Wax Dip
$50.00	$50.00	$65.00

*Offer good for purchase until Sunday, May 14, 2017 only.

Business Hours: Monday to Saturday: 10:00 am to 8:00 pm • Sundays: 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Location: Micro Beach Road, Next to Swirls • Contact: 1-670-233-NAIL (6245)



Source: National Retail Federation
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

SPECIAL TREATS

From Page 18

DO THE GIVING AND LET MOM DO THE RECEIVING.

Head over to any **Docomo Pacific** store and let your mother know she's special by giving her a new phone and line. Get a Samsung Galaxy S8 for only $199 and Samsung Galaxy S8+ for only $299 with minimum 24-month $90 voice and data purchase. This offer is valid through May 14, 2017.

Give her a special gift made by **Mariana Ocean.** They offer Mother's Day design and package selections for their soaps and all will be personalized by laser printing your mom's name. Located at Mariana Ocean, the Garapan store is open daily from 11am to 11pm. Please call 233-0418 or 989-7740 or stop by the store so you can have your gift personalized.

Choose from **T Galleria's** wide assortment of handbags, wallets, cosmetics, fragrances, watches, jewelry, and more. While you shop, get a chance to win 100,000 loyal T points, a $1,000 value. They are located on Beach Road Garapan, and is open from 10:30am to 10:30pm. For more information please call 233-6602 or visit tgalleria.com.

Vietnam Home Gallery has an amazing array of indoor and outdoor plants in beautiful ceramic vases. A perfect gift for mom and no calories! They are in Gualo Rai, Middle Road and is open Tuesday to Friday, from 4pm to 6pm and Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 8am to 8pm.

LET MOM GRAB HER SHOPPING BAG. Mom can shop and the sky's the limit!

Triple J is celebrating Mother's Day at the Truckload Store on May 13, 2017, with amazing deals on daily essentials, quality brands and must-have electronics. Special treats await moms. For more information visit Triple J's Facebook page or call 322-0430.

Taro Sue on Middle Road knows that the month of May is for mothers. Their Mother's Day sale is from May 12 to May 31, 2017. Get up to 50-percent discounts on selected items such as furniture and household items. A special gift for mothers awaits. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

Business

Environmentalists triumph as Senate upholds drilling rule

WASHINGTON (AP)—Environmentalists notched a rare win in the Republican-led Senate on Wednesday as a GOP effort to reverse an Obama-era rule restricting harmful methane emissions unexpectedly failed.

The 51-49 vote against the repeal measure was a blow to the fossil-fuel industry and groups linked to the conservative Koch Brothers, which had waged a public campaign to overturn the Interior Department rule.

The rule, finalized in November, would force energy companies to capture methane that's burned off or "flared" at drilling sites because it earns less money than oil. An estimated $330 million a year in methane—the component of natural gas—is wasted through leaks or intentional releases, enough to power about 5 million homes a year.

The Interior Department said in a statement Wednesday that the rule imposes significant burdens on energy production and they would review it.

The vote marked the first time that the Republican-led Congress has rejected a bid to overturn a rule imposed by President Barack Obama using the previously obscure Congressional Review Act.

For months, Republicans have rammed through a host of reversals of Obama-era rules on gun rights, coal production, hunting and money for family planning clinics, among other issues. The review act requires just a simple majority in both chambers to overturn rules recently imposed by the executive branch.

The latest target was the Interior Department rule on methane.

Republicans and industry groups complained that the federal rule duplicates state regulations in place throughout the West and would decrease energy production on federal lands, raise energy costs and eliminate jobs.

Democrats and environmental groups countered that the rule protects the public health and generates tens of millions of dollars in revenue for state, local and tribal governments.

Fred Krupp, president of the Environmental Defense Fund, called the Senate vote "a signal victory" since President Donald Trump took office and said it shows there is "a lot of support for sensible environmental regulations going forward."

Three Republican senators—Maine's Susan Collins, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and John McCain of Arizona—joined forces with Democrats to block the efforts to overturn the rule.

Graham and Collins had publicly opposed the repeal effort, but McCain's vote surprised many on both sides of the debate.

McCain said in a statement he is concerned that the Bureau of Land Management rule may be "onerous," but said undoing the rule through the Congressional Review Act would have prevented the government from issuing a similar rule in the future.

"I believe that the public interest is best served if the Interior Department issues a new rule to revise and improve the BLM methane rule," McCain said.

Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., said Republican senators were caught off-guard by the final vote.

"We really thought we were there," he told reporters. "We'll keep on working on it."

Gleeful Democrats hailed the vote as a breakthrough in the GOP-controlled Congress.

"Today's vote is a win for American taxpayers, a win for public health and a win for our climate," said Sen. Ed Markey, D-Mass.

"Special interests in Washington, D.C., tried to override this common-sense rule, and today we stopped them in their tracks," added Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash.

The American Petroleum Institute, the oil and gas industry's top lobbying group, called the Senate vote disappointing, but said in a statement it looks forward to working with the Trump administration on policies to boost energy production.

Federal govt records $182.4B budget surplus

WASHINGTON (AP)—The federal government ran the second highest monthly surplus on record this April as tax revenues were pushed higher by a change in the deadline for corporate tax payments.

In its monthly budget report, the Treasury Department said Wednesday that the surplus for April totaled $182.4 billion, the second largest surplus after a record $189.8 billion surplus set in April 2001.

The government generally runs surpluses in April reflecting the annual tax deadlines. This year's surplus was inflated because of a deadline change that allowed corporations until April to make their final tax payments for last year. The deadline had previously been March.

Through the first seven months of the current budget year, the government is running a deficit of $344.4 billion, down 2.4 percent from the same period a year ago.

The Congressional Budget Office is projecting that the deficit for the full budget year, which ends on Sept. 30, will decline 4.6 percent to $559 billion. That would compare to a 2016 deficit of $585.6 billion.

The CBO's deficit estimate is based on current law remaining unchanged. President Donald Trump has called for a program of tax cuts for individuals and businesses, and increased government spending in such areas as the military and repairing the nation's aging infrastructure.

The CBO has not been able to project how much impact Trump's proposals will have on this year's deficit or in future years because so far the administration has not released its full budget outline. That document is expected to come out later this month.

For the first seven months of this, revenues total $1.93 trillion, up 0.6 percent from the same period a year ago. Spending totals $2.27 trillion, up 0.2 percent from the same period last year.

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Caller Box 10007, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan MP 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of May 11, 2017

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. RNV Construction	4/27/2017 SPIm-2017-X-052	Construction of Waterline Service	Lower Base, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved-4/27/2017
2. Pacific Inc. dba Ocean Star	4/28/2017 SPI-2017-X-053	Drydock	Lower Base, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved-4/12/2017
3. Interpacific Resorts Saipan Corp. dba P.I.C.	4/26/2017 SLRm-99-X-054	Marine Sports Marine Sports Activities	San Antonio,	Lagoon & Reef Saipan	Approved-5/1/2017
4. Sui Corporation	4/26/2017 SLRm-2015-X-050 Operation	Marine Sports Kayaking & Snorkeling	Managaha & Groto, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved-5/1/2017
5. Aquaduck, LLC	4/27/2017 SSLRPICHW-2017-X-054	Site Tour	Garapan, Saipan	Multiple APCs	Approved-5/4/2017
6. Micronesia Resort Inc. dba Pacific Islanders Club	3/17/2017 SMS-90-X-093 Amendment 2017-2	Water Park Expansion	San Antonio, Saipan	Major Siting Amendment	Approved-4/24/2017
7. Fiesta Resort & Spa	4/25/2017 SMS-90-X-077 Amendment 2017-1	Relocation of Volleyball Court	Garapan, Saipan	Major Siting Amendment	Approved-4/25/2017
8. Big Boyz Marine Sports Inc.	5/01/2017 SLRm-99-X-124	Marine Sports Banana Boat Operation	Garapan, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved-5/8/2017
9. Ichiban Marine Sports	5/1/2017 SLRm-2010-X-038	Marine Sports Managaha Transfer Operation	Garapan, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved-5/8/2017
10. Ichiban Marine Sports	5/1/2017 SLRm-2010-X-036	Marine Sports Banana Boat Operation	Garapan, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved-5/8/2017
11. Taotao Marianas Inc. dba Taotao Marine Sports	5/2/2017 SLRm-97-X-266	Marine Sports Jet Ski Operation	Garapan, Saipan	Multiple APCs	Approved-5/4/2017
12. Taotao Marianas Inc. dba Taotao Marine Sports	5/2/2017 SLRm-97-X-266	Marine Sports Banana Boat Operation	Garapan, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved-5/4/2017
13. Taotao Marianas Inc. dba Taotao Marine Sports	5/2/2017 SLRm-97-X-265	Marine Sports Parasailing Operation	Garapan, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved-5/4/2017
14. Department of Public Works	5/2/2017 SMS-94-X-057 Amendment 2017-1	Connect Route 31 to Route 34	Capitol Hill, Saipan	Major Siting Amendment	Approved-5/3/2017
15. Saipan Globe International Limited dba Saipan Globe Hotel	5/5/2017 SMS-2017-X-055	Construction of Hotel	San Roque, Saipan	Major Siting	Under Review
16. Phoenix Services Inc. dba Micronesian Environmental Services	5/8/2017 SPILRSW-2017-X-056	Four Emergency Vessel Anchoring Sites	Saipan Harbor	Multiple APCs	Under Review
17. Norman Tenorio dba M/V Super Emerald, LLC.	5/9/2017 SPI-2017-X-057	Drydock	Tanapag, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Under Review
18. Hayden Corporation Inc.	5/10/2017 SWm-2017-X-058	Staging 4 Cross-Island Road Phase III	Capitol Hill, Saipan	Wetlands	Under Review
19. Saipan Sea Cruises, Inc	4/21/2017 SPI-2017-X-051	Drydock	Able Dock, Lower Base, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved-4/24/2017
20. Saipan Hotel Corporation dba Grand Vrio Resort	4/21/2017 SMS-90-X-115 Amendment 2017-1	Construction of Kiddie Pool	Garapan, Saipan	Major Siting Amendment	Approved-4/24/2017
21. Le Grand Bleu Inc. dba Make Sure Diving	5/11/2017 SLRm-2013-X-040	Marine Sports SCUBA Operations	Gualo Rai, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review

§15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulation requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Nation

Comey was pushing Trump-Russia probe harder

WASHINGTON (AP)— Days before he was fired by Donald Trump, FBI Director James Comey requested more resources to pursue his investigation into Russia's election meddling and the possible involvement of Trump associates, U.S. officials said Wednesday, fueling concerns that Trump was trying to undermine a probe that could threaten his presidency.

It was unclear whether word of the Comey request, put to deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, ever made its way to Trump. But the revelation intensified the pressure on the White House from both political parties to explain the motives behind Comey's stunning ouster.

Trump is the first president since Richard Nixon to fire a law enforcement official overseeing an investigation with ties to the White House. Democrats quickly accused Trump of using Comey's handling of the Hillary Clinton email investigation as a pretext and called for a special prosecutor into the Russia probe. Republican leaders brushed off the idea as unnecessary.

Defending the firing, White House officials said Trump's confidence in Comey had been eroding for months. They suggested Trump was persuaded to take the step by Justice Department officials and a scathing memo, written by Rosenstein, criticizing the director's role in the Clinton investigation.

"Frankly, he'd been considering letting Director Comey go since the day he was elected," White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said, a sharply different explanation from the day before, when officials put the emphasis on new Justice complaints about Comey.

Trump's daring decision to oust Comey sparked comparisons to Nixon, who fired the special prosecutor running the Watergate investigation that ultimately led to his downfall. And Trump's action left the fate of the Russia probe deeply uncertain.

The investigation has shadowed Trump from the outset of his presidency, though he's denied any ties to Russia or knowledge of campaign coordination with Moscow.

Trump, in a letter to Comey dated Tuesday, contended that the director had told him "three times" that he was not personally under investigation. The White House refused Wednesday to provide any evidence or greater detail. Former FBI agents said such a statement by the director would be all but unthinkable.

Outraged Democrats called for an independent investigation into the Trump campaign's possible ties to Russia's election interference, and a handful of prominent Republican senators left open that possibility. But Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, with the support of the White House, brushed aside those calls, saying a new investigation would only "impede the current work being done."

The Senate intelligence committee on Wednesday subpoenaed former Trump national security adviser Michael Flynn for documents related to its investigation into Russia's election meddling. Flynn's Russia ties are also being scrutinized by the FBI.

The White House appeared caught off guard by the intense response to Comey's firing, given that the FBI director had become a pariah among Democrats for his role in the Clinton investigation. In defending the decision, officials leaned heavily on a memo from Rosenstein, the deputy attorney general, that criticized Comey's handling of the Clinton investigation.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ARFF RAPID REFILL STATION IMPROVEMENTS**, TINIAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP NO. 3-69-0011-24/XX.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"ARFF Rapid Refill Station Improvements for the Tinian International Airport, Tinian, CNMI, AIP No. 3-69-0011-24/XX"*, and submitted no later than **2:00 P.M., FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2017**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read at the Saipan Airport Conference Room immediately after 2:00 p.m. on the same day.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to construction of temporary facilities and silt fences, excavation of ponding basin, demolition of existing water tank, clearing and grubbing at water tank area and ponding basin, disconnection and capping of existing utilities, removal and disposal of existing vegetation, cutting, disposal and restoration of asphalt roadway, driveway and parking pavement, trenching, placement of 6" PVC, 8" PVC, and 12" PVC waterlines with its fittings and appurtenances, and backfill, construction of ponding basin, the construction of a 200,000-gallon glass-fused bolted steel water tank, and its appurtenances, pump house, generator room and its appurtenances, pressure reducing valve with concrete valve vault and its appurtenances, reconnection of existing waterline to the new waterline, installation and relocation of fire hydrants, all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

A CD-ROM containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($100.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority and the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **Three Hundred (300) Calendar Days**. Liquidated damages in the amount of **Three Hundred ($300.00) Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at the Tinian International Airport, at **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2017**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will be followed by the pre-bid conference. All prospective bidders are required to attend the pre-bid meeting.

Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the bid opening date.

Each bid proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders shall use the bid schedule form available on the CD. Each bidder must also supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a US Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-25 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All bidders shall comply with all Federal requirements under this Federally funded procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: April 25, 2017

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED BIDS for Design-Build for the Installation of PAPI/REIL at Runway 25 at the Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Project No. CPA-SA-001-11 will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP, 96950.

One original and three copies of the sealed bids will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **2:00 PM, FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2017,** at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. All Bids shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: Saipan International Airport Runway 25 PAPI/REIL Installation, Project No. CPA-SA-001-11.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to Design-Build to provide a complete Design and Construction for the Runway 25's New Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) and Runway End Identifier Light (REIL) Systems based on the PAPI/REIL System to be supplied by CPA. Design and Installation will include other related support tasks as described and all in accordance with the Statement of Work and other information.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA). The Contract award, if it is made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days of the receipt of Bid Proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold such Bids in effect for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of Bid opening.

A CD-Rom containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents, including Statement of Work and other information may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, upon payment of **ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($100.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form, including the Bid Schedule. The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. Postal money order made payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the Saipan International Airport Conference room, at **10:00 AM, MAY 19, 2017** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this Project. Attendance of the Pre-Bid Conference is mandatory.

The Contract period for Design and Construction of the Project in its entirety shall be one hundred eighty (180) calendar days. The performance period shall include all required designs calculations, progress submittal reviews, approval of the final design, complete permitting, procurement of materials, other construction incidentals, system certification, punch list corrections final operational testing, acceptance and other requirements necessary to deliver a complete, usable and dependable PAPI/REIL systems and facilities. Liquidated damages in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00) shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day completion of the Project is delayed beyond the Contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low Bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." The review will include, but is not necessarily limited to, previous projects experience, financial capability, quantity and quality of equipment and personnel, and ability to secure bonding and insurance. If the apparent low Bidder is found to be not "responsive and responsible", their Bid will be rejected and the next lowest Bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, seven (7) days prior to the date designated above for the bid opening.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section 70 of the General Provisions. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All bidders shall comply with all Federal requirements under this Federally funded procurement, including but not limited to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Government-wide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: April 17, 2017

Asia

S. Korean leader shuns imperial home

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The new South Korean president is so eager to distance himself from his disgraced, jailed predecessor that he plans to partially abandon one of the job's major perks: the mountainside presidential palace, the Blue House, from which Park Geun-hye conducted her imperial presidency.

Addressing the nation after taking the oath of office Wednesday, Moon vowed to eventually move out of the palace that dominates downtown Seoul, where every modern South Korean president has lived and worked since the end of World War II. It is also closely associated with Park, who grew up there as the daughter of a dictator.

Moon instead plans to commute to an office in the nearby streets of Gwanghwamun, near the square where millions took part in peaceful protests for months before Park was removed from office and arrested in March on corruption charges.

"After preparations are finished, I will step out of the Blue House and open the era of the Gwanghwamun president," Moon said in his speech, without offering a specific timeline. "I will be a president willing to communicate with people at any time. The president will directly brief the media on important issues. I will stop by the market after leaving work so I can talk candidly with citizens. I will sometimes hold large debate events at Gwanghwamun Square."

Moon's plans to abandon precedent, and, partially, the Blue House, are part of an attempt to be a more down-to-earth president. In other words, the opposite of what critics saw in Park's presidency.

Park was described by many as aloof and autocratic, and was notorious for refusing to take questions during the few news conferences she allowed.

So his new approach was clear when Moon personally introduced his prime minster and spy chief nominees at a news conference Wednesday at the Blue House and his nominees answered questions.

Moon spent his first night as president in his private Seoul home as workers were furnishing the Blue House's residential space. He began his second day by shaking hands and taking selfies with some of the dozens of people gathered near his home Thursday morning, telling one of them "Wow, you take good photos," before heading to the Blue House in his presidential vehicle.

AP

Newly elected South Korean President Moon Jae-in takes an oath during his inauguration ceremony at the National Assembly in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, May 10, 2017.

Park's life was strongly linked to the huge palace. She lived in the Blue House twice, first as the daughter of military strongman Park Chung-hee, who moved into the palace in 1963, two years after he staged a coup and took control of the country.

Park left the Blue House following the assassination of her father in 1979. But, following a meteoric political career, she returned after winning the presidency in December 2012, thanks to overwhelming support from older voters who remembered her father as a hero who rescued the nation from poverty, despite his brutal record of civilian oppression.

When massive protests against her mounted starting late last year, she retreated to the Blue House, rarely appearing in public.

Moon expects to find a much smaller presidential residence near Gwanghwamun. But he won't entirely abandon the Blue House. Officials from his presidential camp have told reporters that Moon will continue to use the Blue House's underground rooms for important national security meetings. He will also continue to use the Blue House's helicopter pad and also the Yeongbingwan Hall to greet foreign guests, they said.

But Moon plans to open the rest of the Blue House space to the public and convert the remaining buildings into museums or other facilities to draw tourists.

His plan is unusual to be sure. World leaders have typically abandoned official residences only when forced, by natural disaster, war or revolution. And leaders, both democratic and autocratic, recognize the residences and their grandeur as symbols of their office and its might.

8 dead, 20 injured after moderate quake in far western China

BEIJING (AP)—A moderate earthquake that struck close to the earth's surface killed eight people and injured more than 20 others in far western China on Thursday, the region's earthquake administration said.

The morning quake struck in Taxkorgan county, a remote mountainous area that borders Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan in China's Xinjiang region. The Xinjiang Earthquake Administration said 23 people had been injured, including one seriously, and more than 180 houses had collapsed in the lightly populated area. Most houses in the area were made of wood and mud-bricks or rock, it said.

Search and rescue work was under way, it added.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the 5.4-magnitude quake struck at a depth of 10 kilometers (6 miles) at 5:58 a.m. Thursday (2158 GMT Wednesday). Shallow quakes cause greater shaking at the surface, which can cause more damage.

The county has a population of around 33,000, and is notable for being a stop on the Karakoram Highway, built along the ancient Silk Road connecting China's far western city of Kashgar to the Pakistani capital of Islamabad.

The official Xinhua News Agency said there had been frequent aftershocks.

Earthquakes are common in China's west, although the low population density there often means casualties are low. However, in 2003, a 6.8-magnitude quake in a nearby county to Thursday's quake killed 268 people.

China's deadliest earthquake this century, a 7.9 magnitude temblor with a depth of 19 kilometers (12 miles), struck Sichuan province in May 2008, killing nearly 90,000 people.

Kanoa Resort
Saipan

ONE (1) GENERAL MANAGER

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

Plan, direct, and coordinate the daily operation of a 224-room hotel facility. Formulates policies, manages budgets, maintains statistical financial records, reviews and approves plans for maintenance work, events and room bookings. Individual must be able to lead a management team, develop and execute strategic business plans that define profitability objectives, operational/product goals, guest loyalty and satisfaction and team member engagement objectives. Ensures that the hotel facility is in compliance with federal and local government health and safety legislation and licensing regulations. Position may also include periodic travel to Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc., dba Fiesta Resort Guam when necessary, to attend Board and Management meetings.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

• High School Graduate.
• Six (6) years experience in Hospitality/Tourism Industry, at least three (3) years out of the six in management position

Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:

Kanani Sablan
Human Resources Manager
Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc. dba Kanoa Resort
P.O. Box 500369
Saipan, MP 96950
Contact no. 670-234-6601
E-mail: kanani_sablan@kanoaresort.com

WE ARE AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-030

MAUI SHAFT WELLS REHABILITATION PROJECT, SAIPAN, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to develop the method and perform the construction work to remove the cave in soil material in the Maui 4 Shaft Well tunnel and rehabilitate the existing buildings, platforms, shaft, electrical components, mechanical lift system and all other items listed in the scope of work for the Maui 1 and 4 shaft wells. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC. The duration of the contract is **375 calendar days** from date of award.

This project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from the above mentioned funding agencies.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan on **May 25, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to the Maui Shaft Wells facility will be conducted. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-17-030 –Maui Shaft Wells Rehabilitation Project"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than June 12, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 30, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to LCDR Travis Spaeth P.E. CUC Water-Wastewater Senior Engineer via email address travis.spaeth@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address Marcela.Tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, Jr.
Purchasing Administrator

World

US risks a backlash for its growing role in Syrian conflict

BEIRUT (AP)—With the Trump administration's decision to supply Syria's Kurdish fighters with heavier weapons, U.S. troops inside Syria are in the crossfire between Turkey, a powerful NATO ally, and the Kurdish fighters that Ankara deems as terrorists.

In only a few months under President Donald Trump, the U.S. has almost doubled the number of troops in northern Syria, taking a highly visible role that also risks a backlash from militants such as the Islamic State group and the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, and even pro-Turkey Syrian fighters angered by the U.S. move to arm the Kurds.

Tuesday's decision to arm the Kurds is a public rebuff to Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan a week before he meets Trump in Washington. For months, Erdogan has been trying to convince the U.S. to cut off its support for the Kurds and partner instead with Turkey-backed fighters to liberate the Islamic State group stronghold of Raqqa.

The dispute could ignite more fighting between Turkey and the Kurds as they gear up for a major operation to retake the city, with U.S. troops smack in the middle.

The growing U.S. involvement in Syria's civil war stands in sharp contrast to the caution adopted by former President Barack Obama and has alarmed officials in Damascus and its backers in Tehran.

AP

This April 30, 2017 photo provided by the Syria Democratic Forces (SDF), shows a fighter from the SDF carrying weapons as he looks toward the northern town of Tabqa, Syria.

Last month, Trump gave orders to fire 59 Tomahawk missiles at an air base in central Syria in response to a devastating chemical weapons attack blamed on Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces. It was the first time the U.S. has attacked Syrian forces in the six-year civil war.

Although U.S. officials have said repeatedly since then that the war against the Islamic State group in Syria remains the priority, that strike—coupled with the buildup of forces in the north—has raised speculation of longer term U.S. ambitions in Syria and concerns about a more permanent project.

Under Trump, the Pentagon has made quiet, incremental additions to troop levels in Syria, adding hundreds of Marines to provide artillery support and sending more advisers to work with Kurdish units ahead of the fight for Raqqa. The official limit on U.S. troops has remained at 503 since shortly before Obama left office, but U.S. commanders this year have added hundreds of troops, including a Marine artillery unit, on what they call a temporary basis, raising the total to about 900.

These have taken on a more visible role, often aimed at keeping Turkey and the Kurds from battling each other and focused instead on the fight against IS.

On April 30, U.S. forces accompanied by Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) began patrols along the Turkey-Syria border, acting as a buffer after Turkish airstrikes in the area killed 20 Kurdish fighters. The spokesman for the U.S.-led coalition against IS, Col. John Dorrian, said U.S. troops were about 6 miles from the strikes and put American forces at risk.

Images of U.S. troops in armored personnel carriers with American flags and maneuvering down rural roads in northern Syria spread quickly on social media, triggering alarm in a region where there are political sensitivities about the footprint of U.S. troops and fears about occupation forces.

In a crowded battlefield like Syria, the growing U.S. presence brings with it a greater risk of confrontation with competing players.

U.S. special operations forces are embedded with the Kurdish-led fighters known as the Syrian Democratic Forces as they prepare for battle around Raqqa.

"There is a concern that American forces in Syria can be targeted because there are many who are not happy about their presence," said Mutlu Civiroglu, a Washington-based Kurdish affairs analyst. "Although American forces are well-protected by the Kurds, still such possibly always exists."

Earlier this month, Islamic State group militants staged a surprise attack at a crossing frequently used by Iraqi and Syrian civilians seeking safety in northeastern Syria, killing nearly 40 people, mostly civilians.

The IS-linked Aamaq news agency said militants struck four YPG positions in Hasakeh province in northeastern Syria. Ominously, it added that two of the targeted locations were "suspected of hosting U.S. troops."

Also concerned about the growing U.S. presence is northern Syria is Iran, which has bankrolled the presence of thousands of Shiite militiamen in Syria to bolster Assad's military and seeks to secure a land route from Beirut to Tehran that goes through Damascus and Baghdad. Iran views the prospect of permanent U.S. bases in Syria with a high degree of unease, reflected most recently by comments by officials of the Iranian-backed Lebanese Hezbollah group.

Turkey leader calls on US to reverse decision to arm Kurds

BEIRUT (AP)—Turkey slammed the Trump administration's decision to supply Syrian Kurdish fighters with weapons against the Islamic State group and demanded Wednesday that it be reversed, heightening tensions between the NATO allies days before the Turkish leader heads to Washington for a meeting with President Donald Trump.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the fight against terrorism "should not be led with another terror organization"—a reference to the Syrian Kurdish militia, known as the YPG, which Turkey considers an extension of the decades-long Kurdish insurgency raging in its southeast. "We want to know that our allies will side with us and not with terror organizations," he said.

The dispute could ignite more fighting between the two key U.S. allies in the battle against IS as Syrian Kurdish forces gear up for a major operation to drive the militants from their de facto capital, Raqqa.

Turkey, which has sent troops to northern Syrian in an effort to curtail Kurdish expansion along its borders, has for months tried to lobby Washington to cut off ties with the Kurds and work instead with Turkish-backed opposition fighters in the fight for Raqqa.

But the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, of SDF, which has driven IS from much of northern Syria over the past two years with the help of U.S.-led airstrikes, are among the most effective ground forces battling the extremists. In announcing the decision on Tuesday to arm the Kurds, the Pentagon's chief spokeswoman, Dana W. White, called the militia "the only force on the ground that can successfully seize Raqqa in the near future."

On Wednesday, the SDF said it captured the country's largest dam from the Islamic State group. The fighters, which are Kurdish-led but also include some Arab fighters, said they expelled the extremists from the Tabqa Dam and a nearby town, also called Tabqa.

It was the latest IS stronghold to fall to the Kurdish-led fighters as they advance toward Raqqa—the seat of the militants' so-called caliphate along the Euphrates River. The fall of Tabqa leaves no other major urban settlements on the road to Raqqa, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) away.

Ilham Ahmed, a top official in the Syrian Democratic Forces' political office, hailed the U.S. decision to provide heavier arms, saying it carries "political meaning" and would "legitimize" the Kurdish-led force.

Ankara says the Kurdish militia, which forms the backbone of the Syrian Democratic Forces, is an extension of the Kurdistan Worker's Party, or PKK, which has been waging a decades-old insurgency in Turkey and is considered a terrorist group by Turkey, the U.S. and other Western countries.

WORLD BRIEFS

Czechs rally against country's president, finance minister

PRAGUE (AP)—Tens of thousands of people rallied on Wednesday in the Czech Republic's capital and other major cities against President Milos Zeman and Finance Minister Andrej Babis. The protesters gathered at Wenceslas Square in downtown Prague demanded Babis' firing and Zeman's resignation in the latest development of the Czech political crisis. The public demonstrations follow Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka asking the president last week to get rid of the finance minister over his unexplained business dealings, especially charges that he hadn't properly explained suspicions that he avoided paying taxes. Babis, one of the richest people in the country, has denied wrongdoing and refused to resign. He owned two major national newspapers, a radio and the Agrofert conglomerate of some 250 companies before he transferred them to a fund earlier this year after a new law limited the business activities of government ministers.

Tunisia deploys army amid protests over jobs, corruption

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP)—Tunisia's president is deploying the army to protect petroleum and phosphate facilities amid growing demonstrations over unemployment and corruption, and Tunisian police fired tear gas Wednesday on protesters after a vendor tried to set himself on fire. The vendor was treated for burns after the tensions in Tebourba, according to the TAP news agency. While the incident appeared to be quickly contained, the self-immolation recalled a similar desperate act by a vendor that unleashed Tunisia's 2010-2011 revolution and subsequent uprisings around the Arab world. President Beji Caid Essebsi took the unusual step of deploying the army, announcing in Tunis that "the state must protect the people's resources" after protests in impoverished inland provinces in recent weeks.

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Teen's plea for free Wendy's nuggets sets retweet record

RENO, Nev. (AP)—A Twitter plea from a Nevada teen for a year of free chicken nuggets from Wendy's is now the most retweeted post of all time. Carter Wilkerson asked the fast food chain on Twitter last month how many retweets it would take for him to get free nuggets for a year. Wendy's replied, "18 million." Wilkerson's screenshot of the exchange has moved past Ellen DeGeneres' viral tweet from the 2014 Oscars on Tuesday with more than 3.4 million retweets. Twitter confirmed the record to The Associated Press on Tuesday. Dublin, Ohio-based Wendy's says Wilkerson has earned the nuggets despite not hitting the 18 million mark. Wilkerson appeared on DeGeneres' show last month. She gave him a year's worth of Ellen-branded underwear and a television, but threatened to take the gifts back if he passed her.

Woman videotapes kangaroo grabbing girl at animal park

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (AP)—A woman says her 9-year-old daughter was attacked by a kangaroo at an animal park in Alabama, and she's got video to prove it. Jennifer White says the animal grabbed her daughter Cheyenne and bit her on the head during a visit Saturday at Harmony Park Safari near Huntsville, Alabama. White tells WAFF-TV that she shot video which shows a kangaroo reaching through the holes of a large fence to grab the girl by the hair. The girl now has more than a dozen stitches in her head. No one from the park returned a phone call Tuesday from The Associated Press, and the TV station says a park employee declined comment. The video shows a warning sign that says "I bite" on the kangaroo's enclosure.

Small plane clips truck, embedding landing gear in trailer

FREMONT, Ohio (AP)—A truck driver who heard a strange thud while driving down an Ohio highway says he pulled over to find landing gear sticking out his trailer after it was clipped by a small plane making a low approach. No one was injured in the collision near the Fremont airport Tuesday. The pilot of the plane landed the aircraft on its belly. Truck driver Russ Street pulled over at the airport, thinking he might have blown a tire, and saw a small tire sticking out of the top of his trailer. State police say it's unclear why the plane was coming in low. They say the pilot, 71-year-old John Randall, was out for a short practice flight. Investigators from the Federal Aviation Administration are expected to arrive Wednesday.

Sam the missing python slithers back to Alaska home

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—A 17-foot python that had caused concern in a community north of Anchorage, Alaska, since it went missing two weeks ago has returned home. Matanuska-Susitna Borough Animal Care reports that Sam slithered back into view Monday in the living room of its owners' home in the town of Meadow Lakes. Sam had attracted international media attention after it went missing 14 days ago. One of its owners tells the borough's Animal Care department that Sam was fed a 25-pound rabbit before it disappeared. Animal Care Officer Darla Erskine reported that the owner did not know where Sam had been hiding. There are no wild snakes in most of Alaska.

'Drop dead gorgeous' teen girl shows up for prom in coffin

PENNSAUKEN, N.J. (AP)—A New Jersey high school student who hopes to become a funeral director has surprised her classmates by arriving at her prom in an open prop coffin . Megan Flaherty says she mainly wanted to have fun while attending Pennsauken High School's junior prom Saturday. The 17-year-old says she checked with her date to make sure he had no reservations about her plans. Flaherty's open coffin slid out of the back a hearse. She then stepped out of the coffin on the hand of her date and smiled as other prom goers looked on in amazement. Photos and video of Flaherty's entrance have become an online topic. Many commenters seem to like the entrance, with some joking Flaherty was "drop dead gorgeous." But others say her actions were insensitive and tasteless.

Daring deer licks barrel of Indiana turkey hunter's shotgun

DANVILLE, Ind. (AP)—Some daring deer approached a group of hunters in central Indiana and one was so unafraid that it licked the barrel of a shotgun and allowed one of the men to stroke its neck. Perhaps they knew the men were hoping to bag a turkey? Leon Champine says the young animals didn't have their mother with them "to teach them what is dangerous." Champine, of Indianapolis, told WXIN-TV that he and his friends encountered the inquisitive animals over the weekend in Hendricks County. One of the men, Corey Cook, recorded video showing the deer wandering toward the camouflaged men who are hidden in the undergrowth. The video shows one nuzzling the barrel of a gun in the waning afternoon sunlight. Champine calls it a "once in a lifetime encounter."

Cops: Woman entered wrong house, bed after night of drinking

LOWER BURRELL, Pa. (AP)—Police in Pennsylvania say a woman who decided to walk rather than drive after a night drinking ended up at the wrong house and in the wrong bed. Lower Burrell Police Chief Tim Weitzel tells The Tribune-Review the woman had been at a bar Friday night and decided to walk to a relative's house. She ended up at a stranger's house, where she tried—and failed—to enter through a window. She then successfully climbed through the window of a nearby home. Weitzel says the home's owner noticed the window open, became alarmed and called police. Officers found the woman sleeping in a bed. She's charged with burglary for breaking into a house when someone was home and trespassing charges.

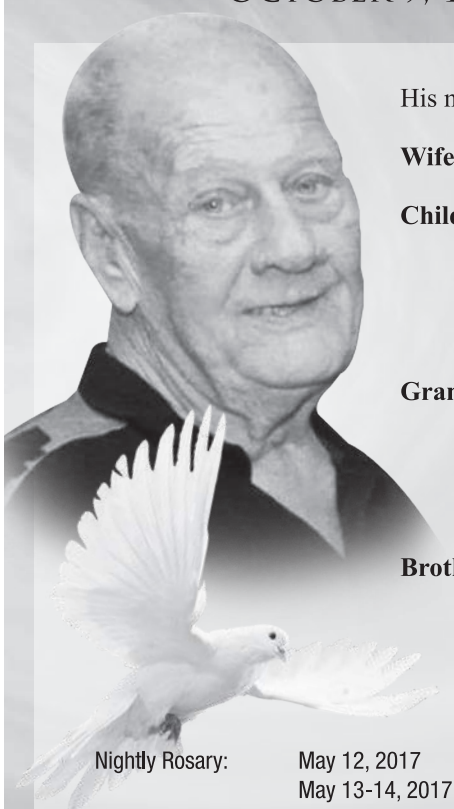
Charges dismissed against man accused of stealing mom's stew

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—A New Mexico man arrested for breaking into his mom's house to steal her traditional New Mexican stew won't face charges after all. Last week, a state district judge dismissed charges against Jonathan Carlos Ray, who was charged in 2015 for the theft of his mother's posole. The judge says the only witnesses to the alleged crime were Ray and his mother. Police say Ray was arrested after he ignored his mother's orders to stay away from her posole and ran off with the holiday dish. According to a criminal complaint, Ray sent his mom a text message saying he wanted some of her posole. She told him no. The complaint says the mother later found her gate and garage broken and a pot of the posole missing. Posole, a hominy, is a traditional soup or stew made with pork or chicken popular in Mexico and the American Southwest.

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

Spencer Lee Arnold

OCTOBER 9, 1942 - MAY 10, 2017



His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Norma Marfega-Arnold

Children: Ma. Aileen M. Arnold
Sandra Lynn A. Baculod
Stephanie Ann M. Arnold
Kathleen M. Arnold
Dianne Doris M. Arnold

Grandchildren: Analyn Michelle A. Baculod
Maegan Tiffany A. Baculod
Amber Love A. Baculod
Chloe Nicole Cortez
Kyle Ethen Cortez

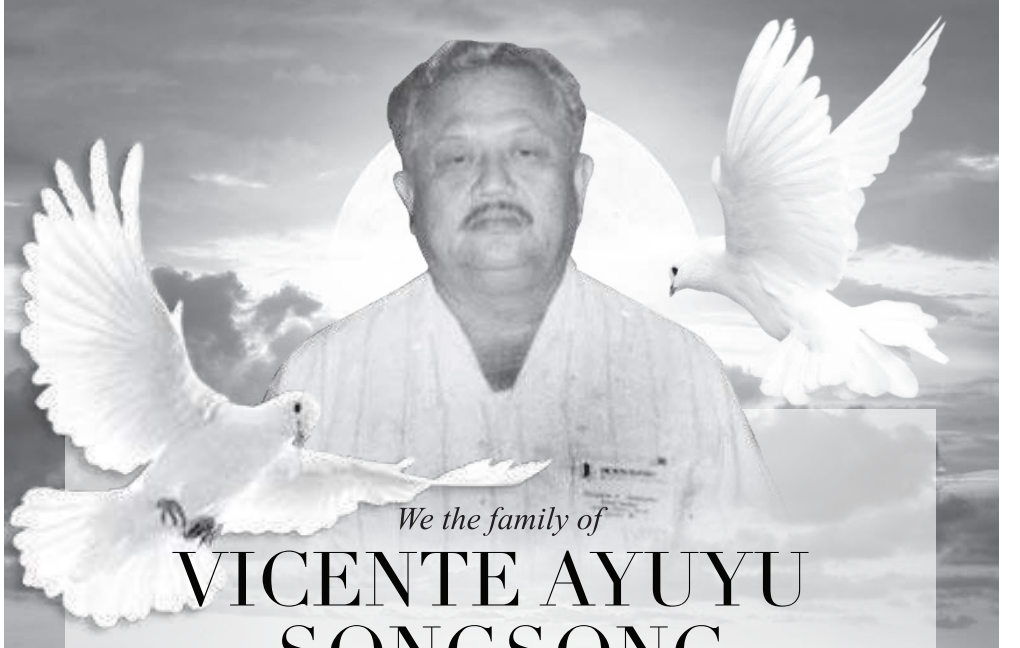
Brother and Sisters in law:
Natividad M. Marfega
Mario M. Marfega
Divine M. Marfega
Nelly M. Saberdo

Nightly Rosary:	May 12, 2017	5:30pm	San Vicente Church
	May 13-14, 2017	7pm	
Private Viewing *(Family & Friends)*	May 15, 2017	8am - 9am	Borja Funeral Homes
Public Viewing	May 15, 2017	9:30am - 10:30am	San Vicente Church
Mass	May 15, 2017	10:30am	San Vicente Church

Your thoughts, prayers, words of comfort, and presence are sincerely appreciated.

THE FAMILY

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY



We the family of

VICENTE AYUYU SONGSONG

would like to invite all our relatives and friends to join us in the Eucharistic Celebration as we commemorate the First Anniversary of our beloved Husband, Father, Grandfather and Brother passing unto eternal life.

Daily mass will be held at Kristo Rai Church beginning May 13, 2017 to May 21, 2017 at 6:00 am.

On the evening of May 21, 2017, the family would like invite you to join us at the residence of Patty B. Songsong in Sadog Tasi at 6:30 pm.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated. Un' Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase Ginen i Familia.

Maria B. Songsong, Children and family

Science & Technology

Facebook: A faster way to translate

NEW YORK (AP)—Facebook says its researchers have found a new way to use artificial intelligence to translate material on its social network faster and more accurately.

This could mean Facebook users eventually seeing everything translated immediately into their preferred language, not just post but videos too. Facebook already translates posts in more than 45 languages, but CEO Mark Zuckerberg says there is still "a lot more to do."

For now, Facebook has made the research and its methods publicly available so developers and others can use it to build translation and other language tools. Beyond language translation, the technology can be used for chatbots, for example, or other language-based tasks.

The method uses something called a convolutional neural network, a technology that's already used for image processing and other types of machine learning.

TECH Q&A

What to do if your PC screen flickers

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: The screen of my HP laptop has begun flickering during startup, right at the point when I would log in to Windows 10. This lasts for a few minutes, then stops and I can log in. This began about the time I installed the AVG PC Tuneup program. What can I do?—Seyed Yarand, Hutchinson, Minn.

A: A flickering screen in Windows 10 is typically caused by an incompatible app or by a problem with the software driver that controls your screen display.

To determine which problem you have, simultaneously hold down the Ctrl, Shift and Esc keys. That will launch the Windows Task Manager, which tells you which programs are currently running. If the Task Manager flickers, the problem is probably a screen display driver. If it doesn't flicker, the problem is most likely caused by an incompatible app.

If you need a new software driver for your screen, go to HP's software download website (tinyurl.com/kp5ljlg) and type the laptop's model name, model number or serial number.

If the problem is an incompatible app, uninstall AVG PC Tuneup, which I suspect is an older version of the program that's not entirely compatible with Windows 10. The most complete way to remove it is to use the "AVG Remover" program (see tinyurl.com/4ykwe3k). Then download "AVG PC Tuneup 2016" (tinyurl.com/mwke3x4) which is Windows 10-compatible.

Q: Years ago, I bought a weather app called My-Cast, which was developed by a company started by TV weather forecaster Paul Douglas. But, starting last year, I had problems using the app, and now it has quit working altogether. What happened?—Steve Smith, Eden Prairie, Minn.

A: The My-Cast.com weather website was launched in 2001 by a company that later became Digital Cyclone Inc., founded by former TV meteorologist Paul Douglas.

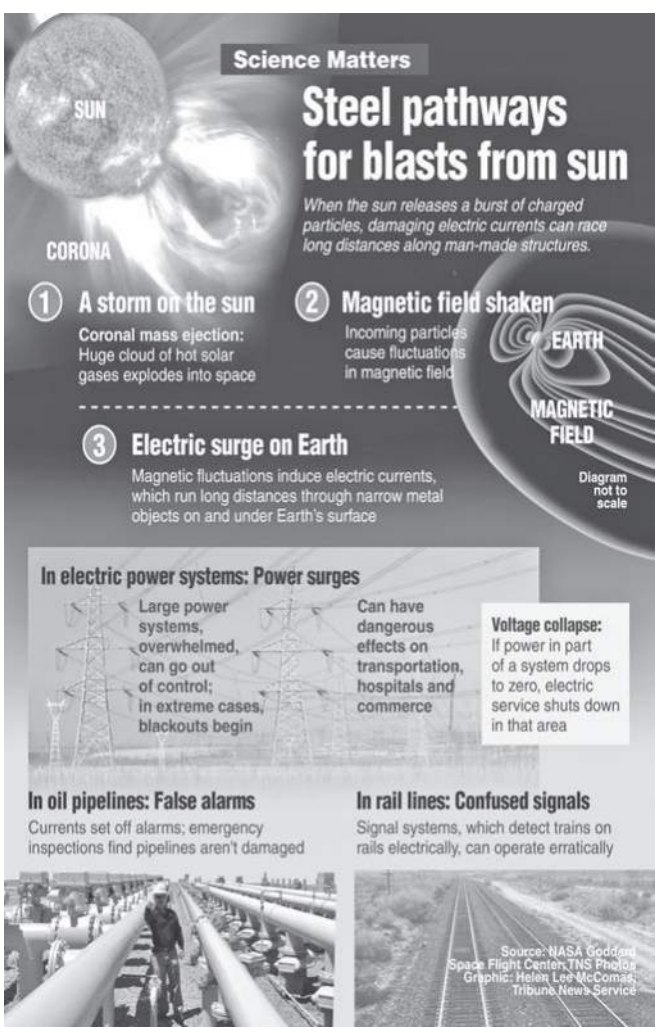
Digital Cyclone was sold to GPS device maker Garmin Ltd. in 2007, and the My-Cast website was shut down in 2015. A service supporting a My-Cast app for Apple iOS and Google Android mobile devices was shut down in February of this year (see tinyurl.com/lfsy5ts.)

But there are other good weather apps. For reviews of some sophisticated ones for Apple and Android mobile operating systems (some free, some not), see tinyurl.com/lnb6awo. For a wider range of apps, see tinyurl.com/mga9ugo for iOS and tinyurl.com/ltswkr2 for Android.

Q: I still use VCRs to record TV programs on two older nondigital TVs. I'd like to get a new HDTV, provided that I can connect one of my VCRs to it. Will that work?—Darlene Mahowald, Carver, Minn.

A: Your VCR cables will plug into the back of a new digital TV, which will enable you to watch old videotapes. But to record new tapes from over-the-air TV, you will need to keep using the same "DTV converter" that makes your old TVs work. It may not be possible to record modern cable TV on a VCR because the channels are electronically scrambled (see tinyurl.com/m36p5ke.)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.


Science Matters
Steel pathways for blasts from sun
When the sun releases a burst of charged particles, damaging electric currents can race long distances along man-made structures.
SUN
CORONA
1 A storm on the sun
Coronal mass ejection: Huge cloud of hot solar gases explodes into space
2 Magnetic field shaken
Incoming particles cause fluctuations in magnetic field
EARTH
MAGNETIC FIELD
3 Electric surge on Earth
Magnetic fluctuations induce electric currents, which run long distances through narrow metal objects on and under Earth's surface
Diagram not to scale
In electric power systems: Power surges
Large power systems, overwhelmed, can go out of control; in extreme cases, blackouts begin
Can have dangerous effects on transportation, hospitals and commerce
Voltage collapse: If power in part of a system drops to zero, electric service shuts down in that area
In oil pipelines: False alarms
Currents set off alarms; emergency inspections find pipelines aren't damaged
In rail lines: Confused signals
Signal systems, which detect trains on rails electrically, can operate erratically
Source: NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, TNS Photos
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

Zhang Yimou says 'Great Wall' story may have been too weak

BEIJING (AP) — Zhang Yimou says the disappointing U.S. performance of the biggest budget China-U.S. co-production to date, "The Great Wall," may have been down to a weak story, but he hopes other filmmakers won't be put off from attempting such ambitious Hollywood-Chinese collaboration.

"The actors are all very good; (star) Matt Damon and everyone was splendid," the acclaimed director told The Associated Press on Tuesday. "Probably the story is a bit weak, or the timing of it wasn't right, or we didn't do a very good job in making the film. There could be many reasons."

Zhang spoke amid preparations for the Beijing opening of the stage play "2047 Apologue," which he described as a "conceptual performance" linking Chinese traditional culture with an imagined future of how humans will interact with technology.

Producers of "The Great Wall" had hoped the movie with a $150 million production budget could buck the trend of China-U.S. co-productions failing to make a splash in both markets, at a time when movie makers wrestle with how to appeal to Chinese and Western audiences at the same time.

The script for the 3-D adventure fantasy that has Damon and Chinese warriors fighting monsters with China's iconic Great Wall as protection took Hollywood seven years to develop. Zhang added elements of Chinese culture and his opulent visual style, seen in the romantic kung fu drama "House of Flying Daggers" and the 2008 Beijing Olympics ceremonies.

"The Great Wall" has pulled in a disappointing $45 million in the U.S. since its February release, though it has earned $332 million globally. In China, where it was released in December, it made $171 million, making it the eighth-highest earner in the country last year.

The movie was made by Legendary East, the Chinese arm of Legendary Entertainment, a Hollywood studio now owned by Chinese real estate and theater chain developer Wanda Group. Other companies behind the movie include the state-owned China Film Group Corp.; Le Vision Pictures, a private film company affiliated with Chinese tech firm LeEco; and Hollywood's Universal Pictures.

Zhang said "The Great Wall" marked a milestone in the collaboration of Chinese and Hollywood producers.

"As the Chinese saying goes, 'all beginnings are hard.' I feel that this beginning is valuable. I hope that there will be more cooperation like this, that people won't stop just because the result wasn't so good," Zhang said.

Pressed on whether he would attempt a Chinese-Hollywood co-production again, the director said: "It doesn't have to be me. I hope more people will collaborate like this."

Zhang's new, much smaller-scale endeavor aims to start a conversation about the relationship between people and technology, and where this relationship is heading.

He called "2047 Apologue" a "conceptual performance, because it's not a show or a story." Instead, he has hired Chinese folk art performers and companies from Europe and the U.S. to supply technology such as drones and robotic arms for the hourlong show that is broken into several "fragments." It will be performed at the National Center for Performing Arts in Beijing from June 16-18, and then tour several Chinese cities. It is slated to play in Edinburgh in August, as well as other countries that haven't been confirmed yet, the publicity team says.

"Humankind has been so smart in developing technology that kills; the Americans are especially strong in that, right?" said Zhang. "When technology has become weapons that help us to kill, what is the relationship between it and us? Will it be used on you one day?"

He said his inspiration for the theme could have come from wanting his children to spend less time on computers, something he never did as a child.

Study finds Democrats far more interested in media as watchdog

NEW YORK (AP)—In the opening days of the Trump administration, Democrats are far more interested than Republicans in seeing the news media assume the traditional role of watchdogs to people in power, a survey released on Wednesday found.

The Pew Research Center poll found that 89 percent of Democrats judged media criticism worth it because it keeps political leaders from doing things they shouldn't, while only 42 percent of Republicans felt that way. While supporters of a party out of power are generally more interested in seeing reporters dig for news than those in power, the gap hasn't been nearly this wide since Pew began looking at the question in 1985, said Amy Mitchell, Pew's director of journalism research.

Just last year, 77 percent of Republicans supported the media watchdog role, compared with 74 percent of Democrats, Pew found.

Meanwhile, 56 percent of Republicans said media criticism keeps political leaders from doing their job, compared with 9 percent of Democrats. That's another startling shift from a year earlier, where 20 percent of Republicans and 22 percent of Democrats felt that way, Pew said.

With Democrats out of power, "they see the media as the last line of defense," said Tim Graham, director of media analysis at the conservative Media Research Center.

At the same time, many conservatives now see reporters as being much tougher on Republicans than they are on Democrats, Graham said.

"They don't see them as journalists," he said. "They see them as prosecutors in a kangaroo court."

Rock nation? Dwayne Johnson considering run for White House

LOS ANGELES (AP)—After conquering Hollywood, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson may have his sights set on the White House.

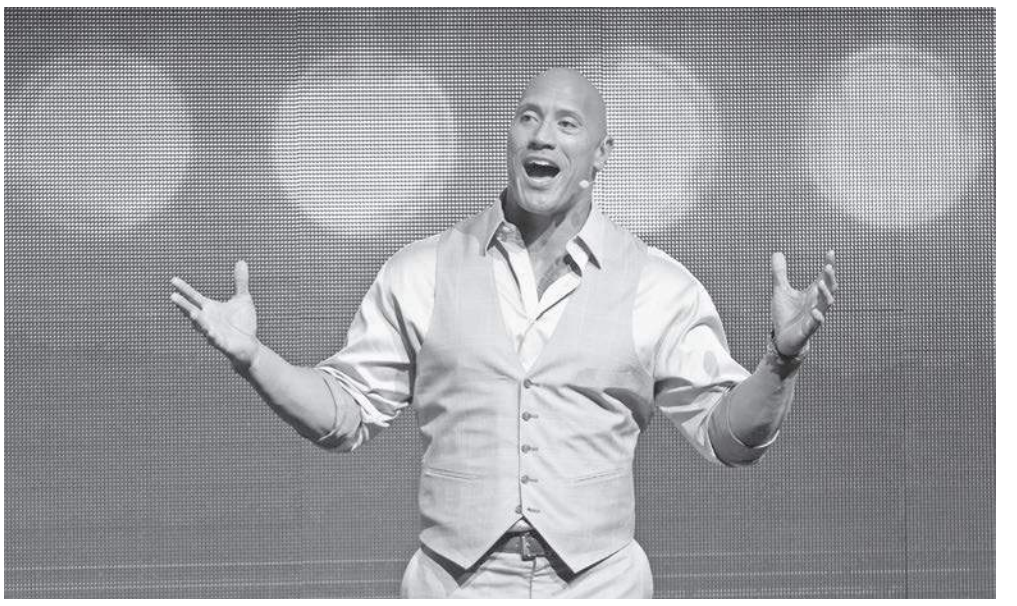
The actor and former pro wrestler tells GQ that a presidential run is "a real possibility."

Johnson says if he were president, leadership would be a top priority.

Johnson isn't revealing much about his political leanings, but says he's not in favor of President Donald Trump's proposed travel ban because he believes "in inclusion."

Johnson declined to endorse anyone in the presidential race last year even though he says both campaigns approached him. Johnson explains that he didn't want to sway anyone's opinion or make people unhappy with his politics.

Johnson would have at least one high-profile backer in NBCUniversal vice chairman Ron Meyer, who tells GQ he'd vote for Johnson "without a question."



AP

This March 28, 2017 file photo, Dwayne Johnson, a cast member in the upcoming film "Baywatch," addresses the audience during the Paramount Pictures presentation at CinemaCon 2017 in Las Vegas.

Hillary Clinton to speak at book publishing convention

NEW YORK (AP)—Hillary Clinton is coming to next month's publishing convention.

The former presidential candidate, secretary of state and U.S. senator will speak June 1 at BookExpo, the publishing industry's annual national gathering, convention officials told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The hour-long event is being billed as "An Evening with Hillary Rodham Clinton" and will take place at the Jacob Javits Center, the site for BookExpo. Officials declined to say whether Clinton will give a speech and/or be interviewed onstage.

Clinton, the first woman to run as a major party nominee for president, will likely discuss the book of essays she has planned for September. The book, currently untitled, is expected to touch upon her loss to Donald Trump. In recent speeches and tweets, Clinton has openly criticized Trump and reflected on the election, stating that misogyny, Russian interference and the FBI played roles in her stunning defeat.

Clinton

Clinton has long been popular in the solidly Democratic community of publishers, writers and booksellers, and both she and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, have been guests at BookExpo.

She was first lady when she spoke at the 1995 convention to promote her debut book, "It Takes a Village: And Other Lessons Children Teach Us," and Bill Clinton was featured in 2004 when he previewed his memoir "My Life." In 2014, Hillary Clinton made a brief appearance at the convention, meeting privately with booksellers to discuss "Hard Choices," her memoir about her years as secretary of state

This year's BookExpo runs May 31-June 2 and will be immediately followed by the fan-based BookCon. Featured speakers will range from Stephen King to retired astronaut Scott Kelly.

Olympic skater Michelle Kwan and husband file for divorce

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—Olympic figure skater Michelle Kwan has filed papers in Rhode Island seeking divorce days after her husband, Clay Pell, filed for divorce in California.

The Providence Journal (http://bit.ly/2pjXNoH) reports both listed irreconcilable differences in their divorce papers. Pell filed for divorce March 27, while Kwan filed March 30.

Kwan is a five-time world figure skating champion, winning Olympic medals in 1998 and 2002. Pell is a grandson of Rhode Island's late Democratic U.S. Sen. Claiborne Pell, and he unsuccessfully ran for governor in 2014.

The two married in Providence in 2013.

Court records show Pell wants the Rhode Island filing to be dismissed so the divorce can be heard in California.

Kwan objects, saying she lived in Rhode Island for the past year.

Neither Kwan nor Pell returned phone calls seeking comment.

6 Prince siblings want quick ruling that they're his heirs

CHASKA, Minn. (AP)—A Minnesota judge says he'll take a request that Prince's six siblings be declared his lawful heirs under advisement.

Carver County District Judge Kevin Eide said in January he wouldn't declare the heirs of the late rock superstar until appeals run their course for others whose claims of heirship have been rejected.

But lawyers for Prince's sister and five half-siblings don't want to wait, saying any further delays will increase costs to the estate and impede its efficient administration. Eide said Wednesday he'll take their request under advisement.

Prince left no known will when he died of an accidental painkiller overdose in April 2016.

Attorneys for those who have been rejected as heirs say their interests would be harmed if the district court doesn't wait out the appeals process.

Outcry over Netflix films prompts Cannes to change rules

NEW YORK (AP)—After a backlash over programming Netflix films, the Cannes Film Festival said that it will, beginning next year, only accept theatrically released films for its prestigious Palme d'Or competition.

In a statement Wednesday, the French festival announced that it has adapted its rules to require that films in competition be distributed in French movie theaters. The festival said it was "pleased to welcome a new operator which has decided to invest in cinema but wants to reiterate its support to the traditional mode of exhibition of cinema in France and in the world."

Cannes this year for the first time selected two films in its official competition from Netflix: Noah Baumbach's "The Meyerowitz Stories" and Bong Joon Ho's "Okja."

The selections prompted immediate criticism from French exhibitors. In France, the theatrical experience is passionately defended. Films are prohibited from streaming or appearing on subscription video on demand for three years after playing in theaters. On Tuesday, France's National Federation of Films Distributors said the Netflix films at Cannes were "endangering a whole ecosystem."

Reed Hastings, Netflix chief executive, responded to the festival's move Wednesday on Facebook. "The establishment is closing ranks against us," wrote Hastings. He called "Okja" ''an amazing film that theater chains want to block us from entering into the Cannes Film Festival competition."

Emotional intensity of work leaves man drained at home

DEAR ABBY: When I was in my 20s I chose a career whose long-term effects I hadn't anticipated. I am charged with telling people they are dying and watching them die on a daily basis. While I know I am good at it, it leaves me emotionally drained.

I manage to muster up enough energy to try to be there for my kids but, frankly, I can't seem to be there for anyone else, including my wife, co-workers and close family. My problem is, this has left me with no emotional support (my children are too young for that, although playing with them is some help) and there are tough days when I really need it. Advice?

ALONE FROM MY WORK

DEAR ALONE: You need a support group. Many people in the medical field find them to be a helpful outlet. Rather than blame yourself for your inability to "be there" for your co-workers and family members, joining a group might help you to relieve some of the stress you are experiencing by talking about it. If you do, I'm sure you will find you are far from alone. If there isn't a support group already there for you, please consider starting one, because airing those emotions you haven't been able to share would be extremely helpful.

DEAR ABBY: I've been dating a guy for two years. He has his late mom's wedding rings. He always said he would use them if he ever proposed to anyone.

Well, he proposed to me last week. Last night he informed me that he had let his ex-girlfriend of 10 years wear the rings because she loved jewelry. It made me sick to my stomach, and made his proposal not mean anything to me.

I told him it would be like me giving him my ex-husband's wedding band to wear. He doesn't understand because he didn't use them to propose to her, but to me that's beside the point. They were ON HER HAND.

I told him he should have given me the option of wearing the rings or having him buy my own set. He thinks I'm just supposed to be OK with this. Am I out of line feeling the way I do?

TARNISHED IN TENNESSEE

DEAR TARNISHED: I don't think so. To say this "guy" lacks sensitivity would be an understatement. Are you sure you actually want to spend the rest of your life with someone so clueless?

When he allowed his former girlfriend to wear his mother's wedding rings "because she loved jewelry" rather than because they were planning to marry, the symbolism of bestowing them vaporized. If you do plan to go through with it, "suggest" he buy you ones or use the stones from his mother's rings in a different setting for a ring you will enjoy wearing rather than feeling like Secondhand Rose (third-hand, actually).

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: My son is graduating this year. To celebrate, I would like to have dinner at a restaurant with a group of friends (adults) and their children. However, I'd like them to pay for their own meals. How do I address an invitation to such a get-together?

NOT A FREE DINNER

DEAR NOT A FREE DINNER: You could put on the invitation that this will be a "no host" celebration. Or, rather than issue a formal written invitation, simply call your friends and describe what you have in mind.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

LOOK, WHAT YOU DID TO MY HAIR! IT LOOKS LIKE IT WAS CUT WITH A WEED-EATER!
NOTHING A LITTLE TONIC AND COMBING CAN'T FIX.
GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU MENACE!
IF MOM SEES THIS, SHE'LL BLOW HER BLOOD VESSELS! WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?
HOW'S THAT? SORT OF THE "LAWRENCE OF ARABIA" LOOK!
SORT OF THE "LOBOTOMY PATIENT" LOOK.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

GARFIELD, DOES THIS GAP IN MY TEETH MAKE ME LOOK SILLY?
ARLENE, YOU COULD NEVER LOOK SILLY
ALWAYS BE SINCERE... WHETHER YOU MEAN IT OR NOT
JIM DAVIS 5-12

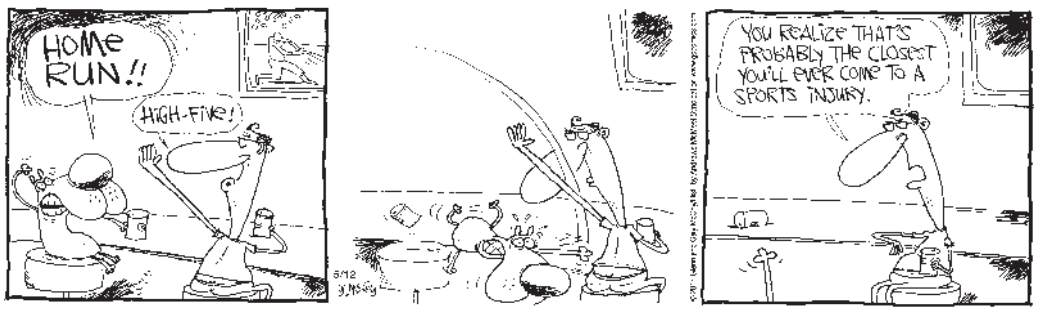
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I KNOW YOU'RE NOT CURRENTLY WORKING, DAD, SO THE TEA IS ON ME.
OKAY. A) IT'S IMAGINARY TEA, AND B) THIS IS HOW FREELANCE WORKS.
I DO WRITING JOBS FOR PEOPLE. THEN SOMEBODY CALLS ME FOR THE NEXT JOB.
DOES THE SOUND OF THE PHONE NOT RINGING KEEP YOU UP AT NIGHT?
I'M LEAVING NOW. COULD I GET THIS IN A TO-GO CUP?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Stiffly formal
6 Stitch
9 Learning ctr.
12 Actress Portia de —
13 Pub order
14 One of the five W's
15 Cockeyed
16 Inane
18 Lane on Broadway
20 Zilch
21 Sashimi fish
23 "— the ramparts ..."
24 Skating spots
25 Scoop holder
27 Thin coins
29 Going out with
31 Sidesteps
35 Sigmund or Anna
37 Minn. neighbor
38 Israeli port
41 Expert
43 — tizzy (worked up)
44 Capri, for one
45 False
47 Inane
49 "Untrue!"
52 Hostel
53 Chairman of China
54 Like fresh apples
55 Mermaid's home
56 Calif. clock setting
57 Host

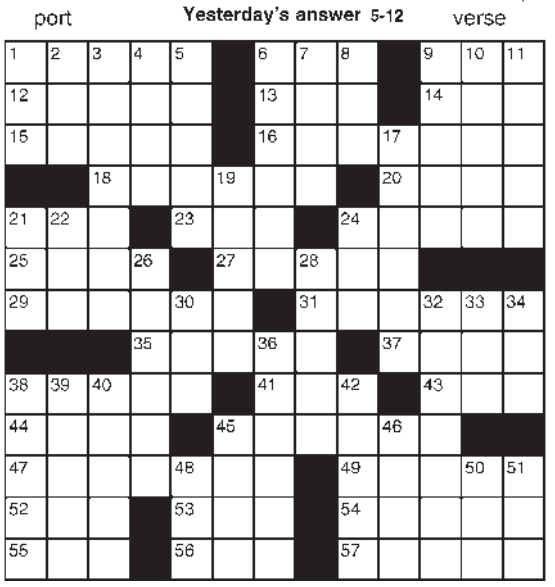
DOWN

1 Madrid Mrs.
2 Nanny's charge
3 Inane
4 Actress Fisher
5 "Same here"
6 Jungle trek
7 Panache
8 Drenched
9 Feel faint
10 Hefty portion
11 Firetruck necessities
17 Togetherness
19 Bet both ways
21 Rm. coolers
22 Weed whacker
24 Gun the engine
26 French tower designer
28 Sierra —
30 Gun lobby org.
32 Inane
33 Dapper fellow
34 Reggae relative
36 Result
38 Stereo hookups
39 Unanimously
40 Actress Massey
42 Pound fraction
45 Unpaid TV ads (Abbr.)
46 Campus digs
48 Little rascal
50 Compass dir.
51 Unlock, in verse

Solution time: 25 mins.

C	U	F	F	■	D	U	D	■	O	F	F	S
A	S	E	A	■	A	S	A	■	T	R	■	P
■	E	I	I	■	I	A	N	■	E	A	V	E
■	H	A	C	A	S	■	A	L	■	N	E	W
■	■	■	A	M	Y	■	■	I	■	K	■	■
C	E	L	T	■	M	A	N	D	O	L	■	N
A	L	■	■	■	A	B	A	■	■	I	S	C
■	I	N	D	L	E	U	M	■	S	N	A	G
■	■	■	G	U	Y	■	■	E	N	T	■	■
F	L	U	T	E	D	■	T	O	A	S	T	Y
■	O	■	S	■	U	M	A	■	B	A	R	E
A	C	N	E	■	K	E	G	■	■	I	E	N
P	O	E	T	■	E	■	S	■	E	L	K	S

Yesterday's answer 5-12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Clare Bowen, 28; Emily VanCamp, 31; Tony Hawk, 49; Ving Rhames, 58.

Happy Birthday: Add some spice to your life. Nurture important relationships. Take time out for you. Decide what you want out of life and how to go about making your dreams come true. A plan to make personal and physical improvements will boost your confidence and enable you to reach your goals with composure and clarity. Romance will be featured this year. Your numbers are 2, 10, 17, 23, 31, 35, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Speak up if there is something you want. Your negotiating skills, intelligence and the ability to adapt to the changes going on around you will put you in a good position to advance. Celebrate with someone you love. 5 stars

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20)*: Take more interest in what your personal or professional partner is up to. If you get involved, you will demonstrate that you have an interest and are willing to do your part. Your enthusiasm will be rewarded. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Channel your emotional energy into something positive. Getting upset over unverified information will only lead to anger. Take out any frustration you feel at the gym or through any other activity that allows you to use your physical abilities. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* You'll be called upon to do something that isn't likely to sit right with you. Back away if someone is acting erratic or pushing you in a direction that doesn't suit your needs. Protect against financial, emotional and physical damage. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't back down. You have more control than you realize. Travel plans, getting together with people you find mentally stimulating and taking on a challenge that will bring about progressive changes are all in your best interest. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Emotional deception or disillusionment will set in if you can't agree with someone you live or work with. If you don't like the demands being put on you, speak up and offer what you feel is fair and doable. Use diplomacy. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Travel plans or educational pursuits will give you the incentive and knowledge you need to explore and pursue a new endeavor. Working alongside someone who is as dedicated as you will inspire you to do your best. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* You'll face emotional confusion when dealing with people from your past or the baggage you carry from your younger years. Address matters head-on and you will discover you are the master of your destiny. Take control and move forward. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Make an offer to host an event or open your doors to family and friends. Your generosity will lead to interesting conversations with someone who would like to work with you. A chance to prosper looks promising. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You'll be tempted by an offer that is dangled in front of you. Step back and consider the validity of the sales pitch. You are better off avoiding anything extravagant, indulgent or excessive in any way shape or form. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Put your family and friends first. Host a gathering. Your enthusiasm will be infectious, giving you an opportunity to present your ideas and entice someone you love to take a greater interest in what you are doing. 4 stars

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* You'll receive mixed messages and find it difficult to understand why someone you care about is being argumentative. Listen attentively, but don't get in a spat. Confusion and delays while traveling can be expected. Keep the peace. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are expressive, sporty and enthusiastic. You are a leader and a contributor.

Eugenia's websites -- eugenialast.com for Ask Eugenia, daily timing and compatibility services, and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave

		1			4		7
		9		1			6
			2		3		8
	5				1		
			9	3	2		
		8				6	
3		4		1			
1				4	8		
5		6			9		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5:12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

9	4	7	1	8	5	6	3	2
8	2	3	7	4	6	5	9	1
6	5	1	9	2	3	8	7	4
7	8	2	5	3	9	4	1	6
3	6	9	4	1	8	7	2	5
4	1	5	6	7	2	9	8	3
1	9	8	2	6	4	3	5	7
2	3	6	8	5	7	1	4	9
5	7	4	3	9	1	2	6	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5:12

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

DOCTOR'S ORDERS Solution: 12 letters

R	E	M	E	D	Y	Y	P	L	E	V	A	R	T	S
N	A	E	L	C	L	B	E	D	N	I	W	N	U	T
S	A	E	D	I	I	N	A	E	C	O	O	P	O	N
L	A	E	M	E	I	V	O	M	L	I	P	R	K	E
B	E	A	C	H	S	E	D	L	T	L	S	D	R	I
L	F	O	O	D	A	A	I	A	E	C	Ⓓ	E	O	R
A	K	L	A	T	N	P	C	M	R	R	Ⓘ	C	W	T
N	I	P	A	C	D	A	E	K	P	E	Ⓔ	L	S	U
K	G	E	I	P	V	N	U	F	L	L	Ⓣ	U	E	N
E	R	N	T	R	T	E	K	T	S	A	C	T	K	P
T	G	I	I	S	T	A	R	I	O	X	W	T	O	O
E	N	C	O	K	E	D	M	U	O	L	L	E	J	T
S	A	U	A	R	I	M	A	H	C	T	E	R	T	S
T	P	S	B	R	E	H	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	E
S	S	L	A	R	E	N	I	M	R	E	T	A	W	R

©2014 Andrews McMeel www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 5/12

Advice, Beach, Bed, Blanket, Break, Care, Cast, Clean, Cure, Dancing, Declutter, Diet, Family, Food, Fun, Herbs, Hiking, Holiday, Ideas, Jell-O, Jokes, Meal, Minerals, Movie, Nutrients, Ocean, Pillow, Relax, Remedy, Rest, Road Trip, Sand, Simmer, Sleep, Soup, Spa, Stop, Stretch, Supplements, Talk, Tests, Travel, Treat, Unwind, Vacation, Walk, Water, Workout

Yesterday's Answer: Pastor

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 120 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

LOOKING FOR HOUSE

Looking to buy or long term lease house/apartment. Will pay cash. Call Lucy at 285-9295

FOR SALE

Piano for sale: A gorgeous Young Chang upright piano for sale. C-110 in good condition, has a smooth touch and good sound. (Contact # 484-5234)

LOOKING FOR SURROGATES

American Couples and Non-American Couples are seeking your help to fulfill their dream to have a child. If you are female between the ages of 21 and 40, have had at least one natural child birth, and are interested in learning more about being a surrogate, please contact Evelyn @ 322-0419. Compensation is over $22,000. Can also receive $500 for referral of qualified candidate.

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SURROGATES

If you are female between the ages of 21 and 40, have had at least one natural child birth, and are interested in learning more about being a surrogate, please call Evelyn @ 322-0419. Compensation is over $22,000. Can also receive $500 for referral of qualified candidate.

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Saipan Tribune

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American CM Real Estate

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• Apartment	• Navy Hill
• Property	• Capitol Hill
• Commercial Building	• Gualo Rai
	• Beach Front

Feel free to reach Mr. Li or Bruce Chong at 484-6190 or 785-7753 or email at 670.abo.international@gmail.com

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

PRADA

at T Galleria Saipan

Is looking for qualified applicants to fill the following position at our Saipan location:

STORE MANAGER

Qualified individual will report to the Retail Operations Director and must possess the following:
2 years minimum luxury retail management/ supervisory experience required.
Ability to analyze store and local market business for reporting to Head Quarters.
Maintains store staff by recruiting, selecting, orienting, and training employees.
Maintains store sales and staff performance results.
Control budgets and expenses.
Secures merchandise by implementing security systems and measures.
Computer skills with experience in Microsoft Excel

We offer an attractive salary and employee benefit packages to commensurate with qualifications and experience.

For consideration, please send your detailed resume to:
lenora.padua@prada.com

Or apply in person or forward your detailed resume at the following store locations:

Prada Saipan at T Galleria Saipan
Beach Road, Garapan,
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 233 – 5009

OR

Prada Guam at T Galleria Guam
1296 Pale San Vitores Rd.,
Tumon, Guam 96913
Telephone: (671) 647 - 0426

Successful candidates must submit to Drug & Alcohol Test.
Police and Court Clearance Required Upon Hire
We are an EEO employer

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude. Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

(1) ENTERTAINMENT MANAGER
Applicant must have previous choreography and dance experience with at least one year in a similar role. Applicant must be versed in a wide variety of dance styles. Previous teaching experience is preferred. Applicant must be versed in music editing programs and be able to learn how to operate the equipment in the PIC sound booth. Applicant must be a certified American Red Cross lifeguard or be able to pass all American Red Cross Lifeguard requirements (including a 300 yard continuous swim test) in order to achieve certification. Strong communication, interpersonal and customer service skills are essential. Applicant must have working knowledge of Microsoft Office with the ability to work well under pressure. Strong attention to detail and the ability to work under deadlines are necessary qualifications for the Entertainment Manager. Applicants must be versed in all aspects of the "CLUBMATE" position as they will also be scheduled shifts in and around the beach/waterpark. The applicant must be able to work a flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays. Korean, Japanese and/or Russian language skills preferred.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Saturday, June 3rd, 2017.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.
Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) ACCOUNTANT

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Prepares, examines, and analyzes accounting records, financial statements, or other financial reports to assess accuracy, completeness, and conformance to reporting and procedural standards. Overall in-charge of the accounting and administrative operations of the company. Compute taxes owed and prepare tax returns, ensuring compliance with payment, reporting and other documents as required by local and federal agencies.

Report to management regarding the finances of establishment. Develop, implement, modify, and document record keeping and accounting systems, making use of current computer technology.

Prepare forms and manuals for accounting and bookkeeping personnel, and direct their work activities. Survey operations to ascertain accounting needs to recommend, develop, or maintain solutions to business and financial problems.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy.
- Two (2) years experience in Finance or Accounting field.

Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:

James B. Gebhard, General Manager/Officer
Pacific Amusement, Inc.
P.O. Box 504419
Saipan, MP 96950
Contact no. 670-233-4397
E-mail: jim@pacificamusement.com

WE ARE AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Gemkell Saipan Corp. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Inventory Planner (1)
High School Diploma or GED with at least six (6) months retail experience and at least three (3) months of prior receiving, stocking and inventory experience. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office applications (Excel, MS Word, Outlook, Power Point). Knowledge on the following equipment: POS terminal, photocopier/facsimile machine, and other items as necessary to accomplish assigned tasks. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards, with or without using a trolley, and move up to 50 pound items using a trolley. Must be able to drive Company provided vehicles. Must be able to bend, kneel, crouch, or crawl in awkward positions. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Sales Associate, Full Time (2)
High School Diploma or a GED with prior work experience in luxury retail sales. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Familiarity with the POS System is preferred. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications or resumes via email to gemkell_recruitment@tanholdings.com .
To be considered, resumes/application documents must be submitted **not later than 5:00PM on May 23, 2017.**
Applications for Employment are available at the Century Tours Office, Kanoa Resort. Background checks and pre-employment drug test will be required prior to employment.

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

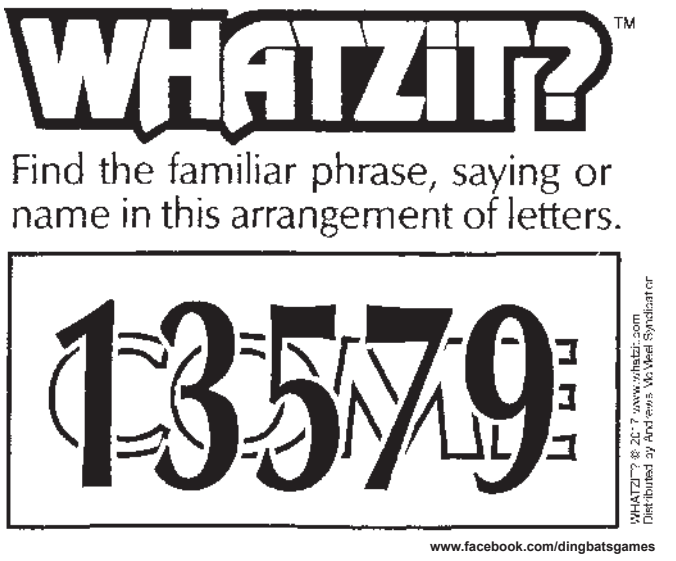
Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.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INSPECTION TEAM LEADER
Openings: 10 Salary Range: $10.00 - $12.00 Hourly
Qualification Requirements: Associate Degree or higher. 2-3 years' experience. Extensive experience as a inspection team leader to include assisting to oversee daily operations, supervise workers on the job site, verify all correspondence with vendors and contractors, and leadership qualities in a construction environment. Knowledge of CNMI/U.S. OSHA regulations and other related certificates. Must be able to communicate in written and verbal English.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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- 5 years or more experience in Marketing/Sales of Property & Casualty products
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- Prepares the Approval Slips and other pertinent underwriting information on personal lines accounts and coordinates with the Guam or Manila Office for the approval of accounts beyond the underwriting authority of the branch.
- Prepares the necessary quotations and proposals in order to generate new and renewal business in accordance with existing underwriting guidelines and within the limits of authority of the branch.

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- Must have 5 years or more work experience as Property & Casualty commercial lines underwriter.
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HOW TO APPLY: No phone calls please. Send your completed employment application and/or resume to hr@moylans.net. Employment Benefits Include: Sick leave, paid vacation, holiday pay, employee discounts, medical, dental and group life insurance.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-024

KAILING DRIVE WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified construction firms for the Kailing Drive Waterline Replacement Project, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of abandoning the existing 4-inch waterline and replacing it with a new 4 inch C900 PVC pipe. Work will also consist of installing new fire hydrant and gate valve assemblies, reconnection of service laterals to the new water main and replacement of water meter assemblies. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **120 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **May 17, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-17-024, CUC Kailing Drive Waterline Replacement Project, Saipan",** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 31 , 2017,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms.

Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **4:00 PM (ChST) on May 19, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Joel Puyat, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email joel.puyat@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Technician- via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-025

ISA DRIVE SEWER LINE EXTENSION PROJECT PART B

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified Construction firms for the Construction of the Isa Drive Sewer Line Extension Project Part B in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of new installation of new sewer mains, manholes, and drop manholes. The asphalt pavement restoration shall be completed by others. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications.

CUC requires the Project to be completed by August 15, 2017 pending the Department of Public Works ongoing road construction. It may be extended if the road construction experiences any delays in the vicinity of the sewer line extension. The contractor shall be allotted a minimum of 90 days to complete the work.

This project is funded by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Capital Improvement Project thru the CNMI. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **May 3, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-17-025, Isa Drive Sewer Line Extension Part B"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 16, 2017,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on May 8, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician – marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org and to Travis Spaeth, CUC Project Engineer via email address travis.spaeth@cucgov.org .

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

NOW HIRING
AQUARIUS BEACH TOWER

Job Position: Front Desk Clerk
Job Description: Performs routine clerical, administrative work in answering phones, customer assistance and organize record keeping. Perform checking in and checking out of guests. Taking in reservation requests and handling of guests inquiries.

Requirements:
- Hotel experience as Front Desk Personnel preferred
- Knowledge of Room Master
- Positive attitude and excellent communications skills
- Can multi-task and work flexible hours
- Team player

Interested individuals may apply in person at the 2nd Floor Office of Jones and Guerrero Building (next to Hollywood Video Shop), Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa between 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday. Or you may send your resume to townhousesaipan@gmail.com no later than May 19, 2017.

GPPC, INC. Job Opening:

Civil Engineering Technician (01) $1,300 to $3,000 per month
Must be a college graduate with minimum of 2- years or more experienced as a Civil Engineering Technician with knowledge how to apply Theory and Principles of Civil Engineering in planning, designing and overseeing construction, structure maintenance and facilities under the directions of engineering staff. Salary will commensurate to qualifications and experienced.

The above position must be able to work flexible time. Interested applicants may apply at GPPC, INC. office located at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills, testing maybe required. GPPC, INC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Closing Date: May 18, 2017

GPPC, INC. Job Opening:

Construction Manager (1) $1,300 to $2,900.00/month
Must be a college graduate or with a minimum of two years' experience as a Construction Manager, including managers in specialized construction fields such as carpentry or plumbing. Knowledge on planning, directing and coordinating activities concerning construction and maintenance of structures, facilities and systems with subordinate supervisory personnel. Able to participate in the conceptual development of a construction projects and oversee its organization such as scheduling, budgeting and implementation. Salary will commensurate to qualifications and experience.

The above position must be able to work flexible time. Interested applicants may apply at GPPC, INC. office located at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills, testing maybe required. GPPC, INC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Closing Date: May 23, 2017

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

Frank M. Rabauliman
Administrator

Frances A. Castro
Director, DCRM

ZONE D SAIPAN HOUSING PROJECT PUBLIC HEARING POSTPONED

This is to give notice that the public hearing scheduled for May 17, 2017 for the proposed Zone D Saipan Housing Project in Chalan Piao, Saipan has been postponed until further notice.

Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Zone D Development Major Siting permit application for the Saipan Housing project.

/s/ Frances A. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

CNMI WOMENS ASSOCIATION

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) Case Workers (Full Time)

To apply, please submit resume to
CNMI Women's Association's
Office in Garapan,
next to the Carolinian Affairs Office.
Tel. No. 233-9411 or 233-8978

Deadline to submit application is Friday, May 19, 2017.

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The Business Sales Account Executive reports directly to the Business Sales Manager. This position is primarily responsible for growing the business of the company and supporting our current customers. This exciting position will be at the leading edge of our Enterprise Sales transformation.

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Programming / Provisioning of all Handsets / Wireless devices. Knowledge of all Handsets / Wireless devices and its features Understanding of all applications / protocols required for handsets and wireless devices. Understanding all accessories and hardware for handsets and wireless devices. Diagnose or trouble shoot cellular devices. Repair cellular devices in a timely matter. Upgrading of software (os) of handsets

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Bradley scores 29, Celtics power past Wizards, 123-101

BOSTON (AP)—Playing in the Garden has brought out the Boston Celtics' best basketball this postseason.

Wednesday night it was home to one of the best nights of Avery Bradley's career.

Bradley scored a playoff career-high 29 points as the Celtics beat the Washington Wizards 123-101 to take a 3-2 lead in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

After being thoroughly picked apart in losses at Washington in Games 3 and 4, Boston shared the ball in Game 5, and again resembled the team that entered the game having won seven straight and 11 of 13 in the Garden against Washington.

Al Horford added 19 points, seven assists, and six rebounds. Isaiah Thomas scored 18 points and handed out nine assists.

"We're a team. And it's going to take a team effort to beat the Washington Wizards," Bradley said.

Game 6 is Friday night in Washington, where the Wizards easily won their two games. If the Celtics win, they would move on to host the Cleveland Cavaliers to open the Eastern Conference finals.

Game 7 would be in Boston on Monday.

Boston led by as many as 26 points, negating Washington's physicality by spreading the floor and knocking down 16 3-pointers.

John Wall had 21 for the Wizards, who haven't won a playoff game in Boston since 1982.

The Wizards scored the first four points of game but that was followed by 16-0 run by the Celtics.

"The great start kind of got us going on both ends of the floor," Bradley said. "Tonight we saw if we're able to start the right way, the game's in our control."

It marked the fourth time in the series that one team has had a run of at least 16-0, including three times in the first quarter. Washington had a 16-0 spurt to start Game 1, a 22-0 run in Game 3 and 26-0 burst in Game 4.

During Boston's first-quarter spurt Wednesday, the Wizards missed eight straight shots before it was ended by Otto Porter's basket.

Boston did a good job of sharing the ball, getting assists on 12 of 13 baskets in the opening 12 minutes. Thomas had five assists, more than Washington's entire team (four) in the period.

The Celtics also outrebounded the Wizards 48-45, after being outrebounded by 26 boards through each of the previous two games (95-69).

"They were the more physical team today," Wall said. "Throughout this whole series, whoever's the most physical team has won every game."

The Wizards responded with more energy after halftime, but each of their mini-runs were quickly beaten back by Boston, which continued to share the ball and take advantage of their fast-break opportunities.

The Celtics' lead grew to 26 points in the fourth quarter.

Thomas said one thing that became apparent in watching film from the Celtics' losses in Games 3 and 4 was that he had to adjust his game with three or four defenders guarding him.

He said he's found maturity to step back and not force plays that he might not have had earlier in his career.

"Now I'm seeing the game differently," Thomas said. "But at the same time, that's not going to stop me from being aggressive and trying to make plays, not just for myself but for my teammates as well."

AP

Boston Celtics guard Avery Bradley (0) drives to the basket against Washington Wizards center Marcin Gortat, left, during the second quarter of Game 5 of a second-round NBA basketball playoff series in Boston, Wednesday, May 10, 2017.

Cavs keeping eye on Warriors on collision course to Finals

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio (AP)—As the sports world salivates while awaiting a seemingly inevitable NBA Finals, Cavaliers coach Tyronn Lue is keeping his undefeated team focused on its next unknown opponent.

And keeping an eye on the Warriors.

"I'm always watching," Lue said. "I'm watching everybody."

But maybe that Northern California team a little more.

With both Cleveland and Golden State at 8-0 in these playoffs and on a collision course toward a potential third straight Finals, there has been heated debate about whether Cavaliers-Warriors 3.0 is good for basketball.

It's the first time two teams have swept through the first two rounds, and with the way the Cavaliers and Warriors are playing, it doesn't seem to matter who they'll face once the conference finals get going.

Lue isn't overlooking Boston or Washington, one of which will play Cleveland next, but he isn't buying into this notion that a third helping of Cavaliers vs. Warriors is somehow a hoops overindulgence.

"I think a lot of people wanted to see Boston and the Lakers back in the day," he said. "I think nowadays, a lot of people want to see Golden State-Cavs. And it's not a problem. Right now, it's two of the teams playing some of the best basketball. So, two of the teams that have been in back-to-back Finals, so, why not?

"Why not want to see it again?"

Draymond Green has no objection.

"I know as a basketball fan that's what I'd want to see," Golden State's loquacious forward said. "You hear all the talk about it. You know it's there, but we've got four more games to win before we can reach an NBA Finals. ... We've got to stay locked in and focused on the now. If that happens, it happens. I know we've got to take care of our business and I'm sure they think the same way."

AP

This April 23, 2017 photo shows Cleveland Cavaliers head coach Tyronn Lue gesturing during the first half in Game 4 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series against the Indiana Pacers in Indianapolis.

Following two days off after sweeping Toronto in the second round, the Cavaliers got back in the gym on Wednesday to work on some defensive schemes and push through conditioning drills while DJ Steph Floss, who spins records during games at Quicken Loans Arena, filled the facility with thumping music.

It's the same routine the Cavs have used while going 16-0 in the first two rounds the past two years, so Lue isn't changing much.

"We're just sticking to it and I think with the DJ, it just gives them a different look and it gives guys motivation to work out to the music and just something different," he said. "I don't know, it's worked the last couple years for us, so we're just going to continue to do it."

Winning has worked as well, and after staggering to the finish line in the regular season, LeBron James and the Cavaliers have taken their game to another level.

James, who will be appearing in his ninth Eastern Conference finals in 14 years next week, has never been better. He's averaging 34.4 points—up 8.1 over last year—with 9.0 rebounds and 7.1 assists in eight games. The extra rest between series has kept him fresh, and the 32-year-old seems extra motivated following a regular season in which Russell Westbrook and James Harden dominated the MVP conversation because of the triple-double exploits.

James has found another gear in the postseason and Lue believes the Cavaliers are capable of shifting even higher—if that's possible.

"We definitely can get better," he said. "We know that."

The Warriors have been more impressive in rolling over Portland and Utah. In its first postseason with Kevin Durant on board, Golden State is winning by an average of 16.5 points per game—nearly 7 points higher than Cleveland and on pace to be the highest point differential in league history.

From the moment last summer when Durant left Oklahoma City and joined Green, Steph Curry, Klay Thompson and Co., it's been assumed they would cross paths with the Cavaliers this June.

And, as Lue said, what's so bad about that?

"I think last year (the Finals) had some of the best ratings, I think, in NBA history," he said. "I think now with them adding Durant and the way they're playing, the way we're playing, it can be even higher."

Mariners beat Phillies, 11-6; Rockies defeat Cubs, 3-0

PHILADELPHIA (AP)— Just like the old days, Carlos Ruiz soaked in the adoring cheers after another clutch hit.

It didn't matter he was a visiting player.

Ruiz hit a three-run double against his old team, Robinson Cano and Danny Valencia homered and the Seattle Mariners beat the Philadelphia Phillies 11-6 Wednesday.

Ruiz earned another standing ovation a day after he returned and was honored with a video tribute that highlighted his career with the Phillies. The former All-Star catcher was 3 for 30 this season before clearing the bases with a liner off the left-field wall in the seventh inning.

"I kind of feel like my legs were not on the ground, it was real special," Ruiz said. "That was huge for my team and also to see the ovation from the fans, their support, and I said thank you to them, because they were real good to me when I was here, and I'm so happy that they do that."

Seattle swept the two-game interleague series after rallying from a pair of four-run deficits in a 10-9 win Tuesday.

Tony Zych (2-0) tossed a scoreless inning after Yovani Gallardo allowed three runs and four hits in five innings.

Aaron Altherr hit two homers and Tommy Joseph also went deep for the Phillies, who have lost 10 of 12. Altherr has three-run homers in three straight games.

"He's relentless," Phillies manager Pete Mackanin said. "He's swinging the ball as well as I've seen a guy swing."

Robinson Cano led off the seventh with a single off Joaquin Benoit (0-2). After Kyle Seager walked, Danny Valencia lined an RBI double to right to give the Mariners a 4-3 lead. Guillermo Heredia flied out and Jarrod Dyson was intentionally walked, setting the stage for Ruiz.

His liner, which missed being a grand slam by a few feet, extended Seattle's lead to 7-3. Fans chanted "Chooooch!" and cheered the same way they did for Chase Utley when he hit two homers against the Phillies in his return to Philadelphia last August.

Ruiz caught the final out of the 2008 World Series and spent his entire career in Philadelphia before a trade to the Los Angeles Dodgers last summer.

"That was really special to come to Philadelphia and get the ovation the fans gave to me," he said.

Cano drove one out to the opposite field in left for a 3-0 lead in the third. Valencia connected in the eighth.

"What an offensive day," Mariners manager Scott Servais said. "(We) put that nice inning together against Benoit, obviously we know him, but our guys did grind out some at-bats, got some big hits."

Rockies 3, Cubs 0

In Denver, German Marquez (1-2) allowed three hits over eight innings, struck out eight and got his first major league hit with a two-run single in the seventh off Kyle Hendricks (2-2).

Marquez had a no-hit bid until Kris Bryant's double leading off the seventh inning.

Greg Holland threw a perfect ninth for his 14th save in as many chances after Ian Desmond hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the fourth that was set up by shortstop Javier Baez's error.

Giants 6, Mets 5

In New York, Hunter Pence hit a tying single and Christian Arroyo had a three-run double against Jeurys Familia (1-1) in a four-run ninth as San Francisco, a major league-worst 12-23, took advantage of third baseman Wilmer Flores' error to stop a five-game losing streak.

Flores nearly tied the score with two outs in the bottom of the ninth, hitting a two-run double off the top of the left-center fence for his third hit. Derek Law, subbing for injured closer Mark Melancon, retired Kevin Plawecki on a dribbler in front of home plate for his second save.

Astros 4, Braves 2

In Houston, Carlos Correa had two doubles and two RBIs for Houston, off to its best 34-game start at 23-11. Correa's fifth-inning double off Jaime Garcia (1-2) drove in two runs for a 3-2 lead.

Joe Musgrove (2-3) allowed two runs and four hits in six innings and Ken Giles pitched a perfect ninth for his ninth save in 10 chances.

Athletics 3, Angels 1

In Oakland, California, Andrew Triggs (5-2) walked his first three batters on 14 pitches and allowed Jefry Marte to hit into an RBI forceout but lasted six innings and didn't allow another run. Liam Hendriks, Ryan Madson and Santiago Casilla finished the four-hitter, with Casilla striking out his first two batters in a one-hit ninth for his sixth save.

Jesse Chavez (2-5) allowed two runs and three hits over 5 2/3 innings in the first start against his former club.

Chad Pinder homered for Oakland.

Nationals 7, Orioles 6

In Washington, Matt Wieters hit a winning, two-run single in the bottom of the ninth inning against his former team, ending Baltimore's six-game winning streak.

Washington trailed 6-2 in the seventh before coming back and was still down by two in the ninth.

Jayson Werth led off the ninth with a homer and Bryce Harper doubled. With one out, an intentional walk and a single loaded the bases for Wieters, who hit a liner to right. Wieters signed with Washington in February following an eight-year run with Baltimore.

Matt Albers (2-0) — another former Oriole — struck out three straight batters for the win.

Blue Jays 8, Indians 7

In Toronto, Ryan Goins singled home the winning run off Cody Allen (0-1) in the ninth, capping Toronto's comeback from a 7-3, third-inning deficit.

Jose Bautista hit a three-run home run and Ezequiel Carrera added a tying, two-run drive for the Blue Jays, who won consecutive series for the first time this season.

Rays 12, Royals 1

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Chris Archer (3-1) allowed five hits in eight shutout innings to win for the first time in five starts since April 14 and help Tampa Bay stop a three-game losing streak.

Logan Morrison, Rickie Weeks Jr. and Colby Rasmus homered for the Rays; Rasmus had a grand slam off Peter Moylan in the eighth.

Jason Hammel (1-4) gave up seven runs — six earned — and 13 hits in seven innings.

Cardinals 7, Marlins 5

In Miami, pinch-hitter Dexter Fowler, out of the starting lineup for the past six games because of a sore lat, hit a go-ahead, two-run triple in the sixth off Jarlin Garcia (0-1) as St. Louis overcame a four-run deficit for the second game in a row. Fowler drove in the go-ahead run in the ninth inning Tuesday after St. Louis rallied from a 5-1 eighth-inning deficit.

The Cardinals went 6-0 on their swing through Atlanta and Miami. It's the first time they've gone undefeated on a trip of at least six games in their 126-year history, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Sam Tuivailala (2-0) pitched a hitless fifth, and Seung Hwan Oh escaped a two-on, no-out situation in the ninth for his ninth save.

Dodgers 5, Pirates 2

In Los Angeles, Kenta Maeda pitched into the ninth inning while Cody Bellinger homered and made a tumbling catch in left field as Los Angeles beat Pittsburgh to complete a three-game sweep.

Maeda (3-2) got within two outs of his first career complete game. Francisco Cervelli hit a two-run homer in the ninth, though, and Maeda was pulled a batter later, completing 8 1/3 innings while allowing two runs and five hits. He struck out five and left to a rousing ovation.

Bellinger hit a two-run homer in the first inning off Chad Kuhl (1-3), then robbed Gregory Polanco of a hit in the fourth inning.

Diamondbacks 7, Tigers 1

In Phoenix, Zack Godley allowed four hits in seven innings after being called up from Triple-A in time to make his second start of the season as Arizona ended a three-game losing streak.

Nick Ahmed, Yasmany Tomas and Brandon Drury homered for the Diamondbacks.

Godley (1-0) allowed one run and struck out six. Tigers starter Matthew Boyd (2-2) allowed three earned runs and eight hits in six innings.

Rangers 4, Padres 3

In Arlington, Texas, Delino DeShields scored the tie-breaking run on a throwing error in the seventh, two innings after going home on a balk.

DeShields drew a one-out walk from reliever Brad Hand (0-2) in the seventh before Shin-Soo Choo also walked. Elvis Andrus then hit a potential double-play grounder but second baseman Yangervis Solarte's wide throw to first went into the camera well.

Jeremy Jeffress (1-2) allowed singles to the Nos. 8 and 9 hitters to start the top of the seventh after replacing Yu Darvish, but got out of the inning without allowing a run. Matt Bush worked the ninth for his second save in three chances.

Brewers 7, Red Sox 4

In Milwaukee, Keon Broxton and Eric Thames had two hits each and set the tone in a four-run fifth inning.

The Brewers won a second straight interleague slugfest in game that had 24 hits, 13 for Milwaukee.

Red Sox starter Kyle Kendrick (0-2) was shelled for six runs and 10 hits in 4 1/3 innings. Brewers reliever Rob Scahill (1-1) allowed just two walks over 2 1/3 scoreless innings.

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Buffalo Bills hire Brandon Beane as general manager

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)—The Carolina connection continues for the Buffalo Bills in their offseason front-office overhaul.

Panthers assistant general manager Brandon Beane was hired on Tuesday to fill the Bills' GM vacancy in yet another indication of rookie head coach Sean McDermott's growing influence over team decisions.

Beane's hiring did not come as a surprise and completes a short search process, which began after team owner Terry Pegula fired GM Doug Whaley and his entire scouting staff the day after completing the NFL draft. The hiring also continues a house-cleaning that began with McDermott replacing Rex Ryan, who was fired in the final week of last season.

The 40-year-old Beane has spent his entire 19-season NFL career working up the Panthers' ranks, including the past two working under general manager Dave Gettleman. It's in Carolina where Beane had direct ties to McDermott, who spent the previous six seasons as Panthers defensive coordinator.

"Brandon stood out to Kim and as I as he embodies the type of leader and type of person we want in our organization," Pegula said, referring to his wife, Kim Pegula, who took part in the search. "We feel his vast understanding and experience in many facets of football operations will be invaluable to our club moving forward."

Beane's familiarity with McDermott also helps, and made him the front-runner during what became a cursory search process in which just four candidates had formal interviews. Green Bay Packers player personnel director Brian Gutekunst, Houston Texans player-personnel director Brian Gaine, and Philadelphia Eagles college scouting director Trey Brown were also interviewed by the Bills.

Beane brings with him a wealth of experience in scouting, draft selections and contract negotiations. He spent seven years as Panthers director of football operations and was the team's interim general manager over the final 10 games of the 2012 season after Marty Hurney was fired.

Panthers coach Ron Rivera praised the job Beane did in Carolina, and wished him well in Buffalo.

"Brandon has worked in a number of roles, so he sees the whole picture in terms of how an organization works," Rivera told The Associated Press. "We have developed a great working relationship. I'm very excited for him."

Rivera also saw something in himself in Beane.

"Brandon is a guy who started at the bottom as an intern and worked his way up," said Rivera, a former NFL player who broke into the coaching ranks in 1997 with the Chicago Bears. "That's something I can relate to coming in as a quality control coach."

Beane will be formally introduced to the media Friday.

Upon firing Whaley, Pegula said he was seeking a GM who would have a collaborative front-office structure. That was a clear nod to McDermott, the first-time, 42-year-old head coach who has quickly assumed a vast amount of authority over the past four months. McDermott has become the sole voice of the Bills in discussing all team-related issues, including free agency and the draft.

In Buffalo, Beane joins a franchise in the midst of yet another front-office overhaul during what's now a 17-year playoff drought—the longest active streak in North America's four pro leagues. Beane becomes the Bills' seventh GM since the drought began in 2000.

His first priority will be hiring a scouting staff, including filling the team's two pro and amateur positions.

In four seasons under Whaley, the Bills were second-guessed on their draft selections and for overspending on players, which led to salary-cap constraints.

Whaley was criticized for giving up two picks, including a 2015 first-round selection, to trade up five spots and pick receiver Sammy Watkins fourth overall in 2014.

NFL BRIEFS

Jay Cutler to join Fox broadcasting team for NFL games

NEW YORK (AP)—Another former NFL quarterback is headed to the broadcast booth. Jay Cutler was hired Friday by the network as an analyst to work on its No. 2 NFL team with Kevin Burkhardt and Charles Davis. Last month, CBS replaced Phil Simms as its top game analyst with Tony Romo. Unlike Romo, who would have been in demand to play quarterback had he chosen not to leave the field, Cutler drew little interest as a free agent. So, at age 34, he's headed to the booth. He's hardly old for a quarterback considering the slew of veterans still starting who are older. But his inconsistency, penchant for turnovers and the negative vibes he gave out caused teams to steer away from Cutler this offseason. Cutler spent the last eight seasons with the Chicago Bears after breaking into the NFL with Denver. He was 68-71 as a starter with a career passer rating of 85.7, 208 touchdowns and 146 interceptions. The move to the both is surprising considering Cutler had a frosty relationship with the media, though he did warm up in recent years. Bears chairman George McCaskey praised his "ability, toughness and intelligence" in a statement. He said Cutler made "an extraordinary impact off the field, doing things for people"—particularly children. And he did it without seeking recognition. "We're excited for the fans to get to know the Jay Cutler we knew inside the walls of Halas Hall," McCaskey said. Miami Dolphins coach Adam Gase—Chicago's offensive coordinator in 2015—said he's not surprised by the move. "I guess I know a different guy than what everybody else portrays," Gase said.

New York Jets receiver Robby Anderson arrested in Miami

MIAMI (AP)—Authorities say a wide receiver for the New York Jets has been charged with resisting arrest and obstruction of justice after sparring with officials who asked him to leave a Miami music festival. A Miami Police Department arrest report says 23-year-old Robby Anderson refused an order by a police lieutenant to sit on the ground and pushed the officer and other officials at the Rolling Loud festival Sunday evening. A hearing is scheduled for May 15. A phone number wasn't available for Anderson, who is from South Florida. An undrafted rookie from Temple, Anderson caught 42 passes for 587 yards last season. In a statement the Jets said they're "aware of the situation" but have no comment.

670

From Page 40

With Kintaro and company on target, 670 Sonics XVI pulled away early in the game, taking a 31-10 advantage after the first half. The Northside Wolves never recovered from thereon, as only Angelo Royce consistently hit multiple baskets for the losing squad.

In other results in the boys U18 this week, the Ol'Aces nipped the 670 Sonics XVI, 48-47; the NMI Rollers downed the Ol'Aces Elite, 51-47; and the Ol'Aces Extreme outclassed Kagman Sparks, 57-52.

Leander Rabago nailed two of the Ol'Aces Extreme's last four field goals for their close win last Tuesday. He also top-scored for his squad after recording 17 points. Peter Santos had 14 markers on a losing effort for Kagman Sparks.

In last Monday's first game, the NMI Rollers got 4 of its last 6 points from the foul line to defeat the Ol'Aces Elite.

Angelo Factor knocked in a pair of charities, while Dalton Dancoe and Manny Cobacha had one each, and Jude Tengco drilled the NMI Rollers' last field goal. Tengco finished the game with 12 points to lead the NMI Rollers, while Dancoe backed him up after contributing 10.

In the second game, the Ol'Aces pulled off a 48-47 victory over 670 Sonics XVI, thanks to Dean Blake's free throw.

Blake was fouled by Kintaro in the closing seconds of the match and the former split his charities to save the day for the Ol'Aces. Before Blake's free throw, the 670 Sonics XVI had a chance to grab the lead when Itaas also stepped to the stripe. However, the lefty made only one free throw to force the deadlock.

Meanwhile, in the lone women's match played this week, the Ol'Aces dominated the Ol'Aces Junior, 47-18.

Cassandra Camacho, Chevy Alipio, and Sylvina Simram scored 8 points apiece to help the Ol'Aces ease past the Ol'Aces Junior, which was led by the 10 points of Sedrei Camacho.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	21	10	.677	—
Baltimore	22	11	.667	—
Boston	17	16	.515	5
Tampa Bay	17	19	.472	6½
Toronto	13	21	.382	9½

Central Division

Cleveland	18	15	.545	—
Minnesota	16	14	.533	½
Detroit	16	16	.500	1½
Chicago	15	16	.484	2
Kansas City	12	21	.364	6

West Division

Houston	23	11	.676	—
Seattle	17	17	.500	6
Los Angeles	17	19	.472	7
Oakland	16	18	.471	7
Texas	15	20	.429	8½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	22	12	.647	—
New York	16	17	.485	5½
Philadelphia	13	19	.406	8
Miami	13	20	.394	8½
Atlanta	11	20	.355	9½

Central Division

St. Louis	19	14	.576	—
Cincinnati	18	15	.545	1
Milwaukee	18	16	.529	1½
Chicago	17	17	.500	2½
Pittsburgh	14	20	.412	5½

West Division

Colorado	22	13	.629	—
Los Angeles	20	14	.588	1½
Arizona	19	16	.543	3
San Diego	13	22	.371	9
San Francisco	12	23	.343	10

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GSM

From Page 40

rio then managed to steal second and third base, but was stranded there as GSM ended the game with Kapileo striking out Tony Benavente and Jeremy Atalig.

With the loss, the D-9ers fell to a 4-7 record and is a long shot for two of the remaining semis berths in the eight-team field, leaving Titanium (7-7), Falcons (6-6), and defending champions Chalan Kanoa Bears (6-6) to battle for the final two playoff slots. The BSI Aces took the second playoff seat as early as last week as they are second behind the unbeaten GSM with the latter holding a 10-3 slate.

GSM cruised to its 14th win despite getting off to a slow start. The pennant champion scored only one run in the first inning with Tenorio reaching off a sacrifice fly from Tomokane. Fortunately for GSM, the D-9ers could not also hit their targets and were silent in the first two innings before making one run in the third, but were limited to one run anew in the last five. Ben Lizama gave the D-9ers their first run when he stole home in the third, while Wilson posted the second and last off a fielder's choice.

GSM after being held to one run in the first and none in the second, registered two runs apiece from the third to sixth inning to gain cushion en route to its early victory.

Meanwhile, Titanium won its last two games to stay in playoff contention. It first defeated the Comets last Friday, 11-8, and then crushed the Falcons last Tuesday, 20-2.

Titanium recorded eight runs in the first three innings to take control of the match and kept its lead after surviving the Comets' late rally.

Against the Falcons, Titanium went for the kill at the top of the ninth inning after firing 10 runs. Jerald Cabrera led the Falcons in the pivotal inning as he went 2-for-2 at bat and scored one run while collecting four RBIs.

With its back-to-back wins, Titanium now waits for the results of the remaining games of the Falcons and Bears to determine its fate in the playoffs.

CAROL

From Page 40

After the opening round upset, world No. 353 entered Round 2 even more confident and went on to ease past her Algerian foe.

"The second round was an easier match than the first. I was able to defend her strength which is her forehand, and after I won the first set, I started to play aggressively and attacked her," Lee said. "Today (yesterday) I will be challenging the No. 1 seed. My plan is the same—hit high depth on her weakness, get one more ball in, play with confidence, be aggressive, and focus on my game."

KANOA

From Page 39

Jun Liu knocked in the two earlier goals for the division leader with his first recorded in the 15th minute and the second in the 39th, while Don Cabrera scored the other goal for the Thundercats in the 46th minute.

The Thundercats are still winless in five games to remain at the bottom half of the team standings in the eight-squad field.

Kanoa 2, Shirley's-2 2

Kanoa, which joined Shirley's-1 on top in Week 4 of the league, dropped to second after a draw against Shirley's-2.

Kirt Andon hit the game-tying goal in the 54th minute, as Kanoa escaped an impending win after making both its goals in the second half. Ian Maniago gave Kanoa its first goal (47th minute) in the second half.

Shirley's-1 drew its pair of goals from Louie Ryu, whose back-to-back shots were logged in the 22nd and 29th minute.

KFAS 4, WNT 3

Korean Football Association on Saipan got its second win this season after nipping the CNMI Women's National Team.

Edwin Kim made a hat trick for KFAS, posting them in succession to give his team enough cushion against the WNT. Edwin scored in the 48th, 51st, and 53rd minute, while Yeong Gil Kim earned the other goal for KFAS in the 38th.

Three different players made it to the board for the winless WNT (0-0-5) with Diana Maniacop drawing first blood in the 10th minute and Britanny Wally and Gillian Villagomez finding their targets in the 36th and 50th, respectively.

Matansa 3, Sun Palace 0

Matansa finally broke into the win column after four botched attempts as it blanked Sun Palace in the opening game in the division last weekend.

Kamrul Kamrul, Amzad Khan, and Al-Amin Fnu scored the three goals for Matansa in the second half.

Paire/Hawaiian Rock pounds Kanoa

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Paire Football Club /Hawaiian Rock regrouped quickly following a loss to Sun Palace after hammering Kanoa, 7-1, in their Division A game in the M-League last Sunday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

Yuya Kunimune and Ajani Burrell teamed up in Paire Football/Hawaiian Rock's lopsided as the former scored four goals and the latter added three. Kunimune caught fire early, as he already made a hat trick with less than 15 minutes gone by in the first half. He started his string of goals in the fifth minute, while his second and third came in the 10th and 11th.

Burrell made it a 4-0 advantage for Paire Football/Hawaiian Rock with his shot in the 12th minute, while Wai Woo Lee finally countered for Kanoa four minutes later. Burell then got the one goal back with his second conversion in the 26th minute and he also nailed Paire Football /Hawaiian Rock's last goal in the 44th, 12 minutes after Kunimune got his fourth.

With the victory, Paire Football/Hawaiian Rock stayed in the middle of the pack with its 2-0-3 win-draw-loss record, while Kanoa dropped to a 1-1-3 slate, just slight ahead of cellar dweller Sun Palace (1-0-4).

In other results in Division A, the CNMI U18 National Team regained the top spot after it defeated Sun Palace, 5-1, and erstwhile leader MP United lost to TanHoldings, 0-3.

Terrance Montenegro lifted the Teen Ayuyus to the easy win over Sun Palace after logging three goals. Thaiphi Austria and Joshua Abragan contributed one apiece, while Sun Palace's lone goal came from Daniel Agulto.

TanHoldings foiled MP United's bid to stay at the No. 1 spot in the team standings of the six-squad field after playing good defense and shutting down the latter.

On offense, TanHoldings leaned on the two goals of Martin Jambor and one from Yohei Kamikawa.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Paire FC/Hawaiian Rock player, right, surveys the field first before making any move during an earlier game against Sun Palace in Division A of the M-League at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

DIVISION B
Shirley's-1 3, Thundercats 2

Shirley's-1 took the solo lead in the division following a close win against the Thundercats.

Shirley's now has a 4-1-0 record, one victory ahead of Kanoa (3-2-0) and Shirley's-1 (3-1-1).

Kosuke Sato registered the winning goal for Shirley's-1 in the 50th minute or a minute after the Thundercats equalized off Sung Bae Park's shot.

See KANOA on Page 38

Former GTC student to play collegiate volleyball

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Former Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School student John Joseph Salas received an athletic scholarship and will be playing for the Ottawa University Surprise AZ in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

"Ottawa has offered me a generous scholarship and I chose to commit to the university this pring to compete in the upcoming season. Ottawa AZ is a new campus and will start competing in the NAIA and will be playing a variety of tournaments from different divisions and conferences," said Salas, who will be graduating from Sunrise Mountain High School next month.

"I am currently a senior in high school and in the Fall of 2017 will be a freshman taking on a pre-med major in biology. From there I will move on to graduate school to pursue a career in dermatology or pharmaceutical sciences," said Salas, who will play as libero for his new team.

The son of J.J. and Sam Salas of Capitol Hill, John Joseph started playing volleyball in 2013 in his freshman year in high school. The 17-year-old also suits up for travel teams during the offseason in school leagues.

"My favorite travel team was AZ Fear. I learned a lot from this club and expanded on my skills as we traveled to California to compete against higher-level teams," he said.

Salas wanted to bring his act in the collegiate ranks so he took the initiative to find a team while he is playing in his last year with Sunrise Mountain.

"I reached out to the coach at Ottawa, Kyle Steele, through my online recruiting website. I e-mailed him saying that I have received offers from other colleges around the country but I was not looking to move out of state, and was wondering if he would want to watch me play. This is a strategy taught in recruiting, where student athletes reach out to coaches during the ends of the season to try and make an impression. From there, he watched my highlight videos, and came to watch me play at one of my high school tournaments. Following that, I visited the campus in Surprise where I was taken on a tour and offered a scholarship," he said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
John Joseph Salas poses for a photo after being introduced as the newest member of the volleyball team of the Ottawa University Surprise AZ last month.

Salas developed his passion for volleyball despite not playing the sport when he was on Saipan.

"I resided on our beautiful island for the first couple of years of my life and then again from ages 7 to 12 and attended school at GTC in San Roque. I never played volleyball there, but I was a special batter for my father's Little League team (Shell) when I was about 8 years old," said Salas.

He is very thankful to be given the chance to play collegiate volleyball and encouraged other aspiring athletes from the CNMI to continue training and work their way up to high-level competitions.

"It feels amazing to be given this opportunity to play in the collegiate level. I have been blessed with a great coach and a beautiful campus to live on," Salas said.

"I believe if you want to play in the collegiate level it is more than possible. There are coaches across the nation recruiting athletes every day. I did not notice this until I started my own recruiting profile and received emails from multiple coaches from different states. It truly is a mesmerizing experience receiving your first offer and seeing what you could be doing in the first milestone of your life after high school," he added.

Dove donates $10K for women's soccer program

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
D&Q Saipan regional sales manager Marilyn Marron, front row right, hands over the $10,000 check donation to NMIFA Women's Committee chair Patricia Coleman, to express Dove's continued support to the women's soccer program in the CNMI during a brief ceremony last Sunday at the Chacha Oceanview Middle School Field.

To honor its continued commitment to the women's soccer program in the CNMI, Dove turned in a $10,000 check donation to the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association last Sunday.

The $10,000 is part of the $30,000 sponsorship deal that Dove signed with NMIFA to help develop women's soccer in the CNMI.

The donation turnover ceremony took place at the Chacha Oceanview Middle School Field during a break in the games in the 2017 Dove Women's Spring League. Marilyn Marron, regional sales manager of D&Q Saipan, which distributes Dove products to the island, handed the ceremonial check to NMIFA Women's Committee chair Patricia Coleman.

"We thank Dove for contributing to and investing in the health and vitality of women through the fostering of the NMIFA Women's Football/Soccer League Program, which includes various soccer opportunities throughout the year. The donation from Dove helps support a program that builds team work, encourages diversity, and demands fair play in addition to providing opportunities for physical activities to girls and women of all ages and fitness levels in the CNMI," Coleman said.

This season's Dove league features 15 teams divided into three divisions. Five teams competed in Division B, which had concluded its competition last week with Shirley's FC emerging as the champion. Division A has one more game next week, but Paire had already secured the Spring title after beating three other squads. In the masters division, six teams were entered and games for this season were also completed last weekend. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

Bradley scores 29, Celtics power past Wizards, 123-101

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Sports

Paire/Hawaiian Rock pounds Kanoa

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Carol marches into quarterfinals

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Carol Lee, seen here going for a backhand return during a local tournament at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts, made it to the quarterfinals of the ITF/CAT North African Circuit 2017 last Wednesday at the Oceanic Club Casablancais in Casablanca, Morocco.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI junior player Carol Lee remained in contention for the singles title in the ITF/CAT North African Circuit 2017 after beating her second round foe last Wednesday at the Oceanic Club Casablancais in Casablanca, Morocco.

Lee eliminated Algeria's Lynda Benkaddour after only two sets to advance to the quarterfinal round of the Grade 3 tournament. The Commonwealth player won by 4 points in the opening set, 6-2, and played even better in the second to demolish Benkaddour, 6-0.

With her second straight victory in the 32-player draw, the 16-year-old Lee set a Round of 8 date with No. 1 seed Sina Zuger of Switzerland. The top-ranked player marched into the quarterfinals after easing past Russia's Maria Dzemeshkevich, 6-1, 6-1. Zuger and Lee were scheduled to duel for a spot in the semifinals of the upper half of the bracket last night (Saipan time) and the result of their game was unavailable at press time.

Pending the outcome of Lee's match over Zuger, the CNMI junior player has yet to drop a single set in the tournament. She also swept her first round foe, stunning No. 5 seed and world No. 261 Irene Garceran of Spain, 6-2, 6-3, last Tuesday.

Lee, in a message to *Saipan Tribune*, said Garceran was the finalist in the same tournament last year and although she was nervous in the early stages of their match, she did not let her Spanish opponent intimidate her.

"Even though she was seeded No. 5 and went to the finals last year, it didn't mean she was the No. 5 in the Grand Slam or something bigger, so I tried to remind myself about that. I was nervous a bit, but at the same time I was confident and I always tell myself that I can do it. I had my game plan and it worked," Lee said.

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670 Sonics XVI hammers Northside Wolves

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 670 Sonics XVI walloped the Northside Wolves, 73-32, during their boys U18 division game in the 2017 Francisco M. Diaz Memorial Youth League last Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Four 670 Sonics XVI players scored in double figures to hand their team the lopsided win after a sorry loss to the Ol'Aces last Monday. Center Jester Kintaro paced the 670 Sonics XVI with his 12 points, while Khristian Itaas and Sean Rafols chipped in 11 each, and Jehp Ejercito contributed 10. Three more 670 Sonics XVI players added at least 5 points apiece for the team's balance offense.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A 670 Sonics player pulls up for an open shot during an earlier game in the Diaz youth caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

GSM sweeps regular season

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Go See Mark will enter semifinal round of the 2017 Saipan Baseball League unscathed as it swept the regular season following a 12-2 victory over the D-9ers last Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

GSM finished the double-round robin elimination with an impressive 14-0 record, securing a flawless mark after downing the D-9ers in eight innings.

A three-run top of the eighth inning set up GSM's early victory via 10-run mercy rule. Peter Tomokane and Anthony Tenorio each hit a RBI double, while John Taitano made an RBI single to give GSM the double-digit lead, going into the bottom of the eighth.

GSM went on to keep 10-run advantage and wrapped up the match one inning early as the D-9ers were done at the bottom of the eighth after only four batters. Leadoff batter Jon Wilson was fanned out by GSM closer Kevin Kapileo, who gave up a single to Roke Tenorio in the ensuing play. Teno-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Go See Mark's Anthony Tenorio practices his swing while waiting for his turn at bat during the top of the sixth inning of their game against the D-9ers in the 2017 Saipan Baseball League last Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.